

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 87

18p



**INVADERS
FROM THE
BLACK STAR**

STARBLAZER



THE PEACE-KEEPING
FORCES OF THE TERRAN
FEDERATION SET UP AN
IMPREGNABLE PERIMETER
ROUND THE SECTOR OF THE
GALAXY CONTAINING THE FEDERATION
STAR-SYSTEMS.

THE FABRIC OF SPACE-TIME
CONTAINED WORM-HOLES WHICH LED
DIRECTLY TO OTHER SECTORS OF THE
UNIVERSE, BUT ALL THESE HAD BEEN CHARTED
AND WERE GUARDED BY SPACE-FORTS WITH GARRISON
SQUADRONS ON CONSTANT STAND-BY.

A BREACH OF THE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER WAS CONSIDERED
IMPOSSIBLE: A BREACH WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE APPROACHES TO
HIGH-COMMAND HEAD-QUARTERS WAS UNTHINKABLE . . . AND
YET IT HAPPENED!

INVADERS FROM THE BLACK STAR

THE GARRISON ON THE TERRAN INNER- DEFENCE NET RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY TO AN UNEXPECTED INTRUDER —

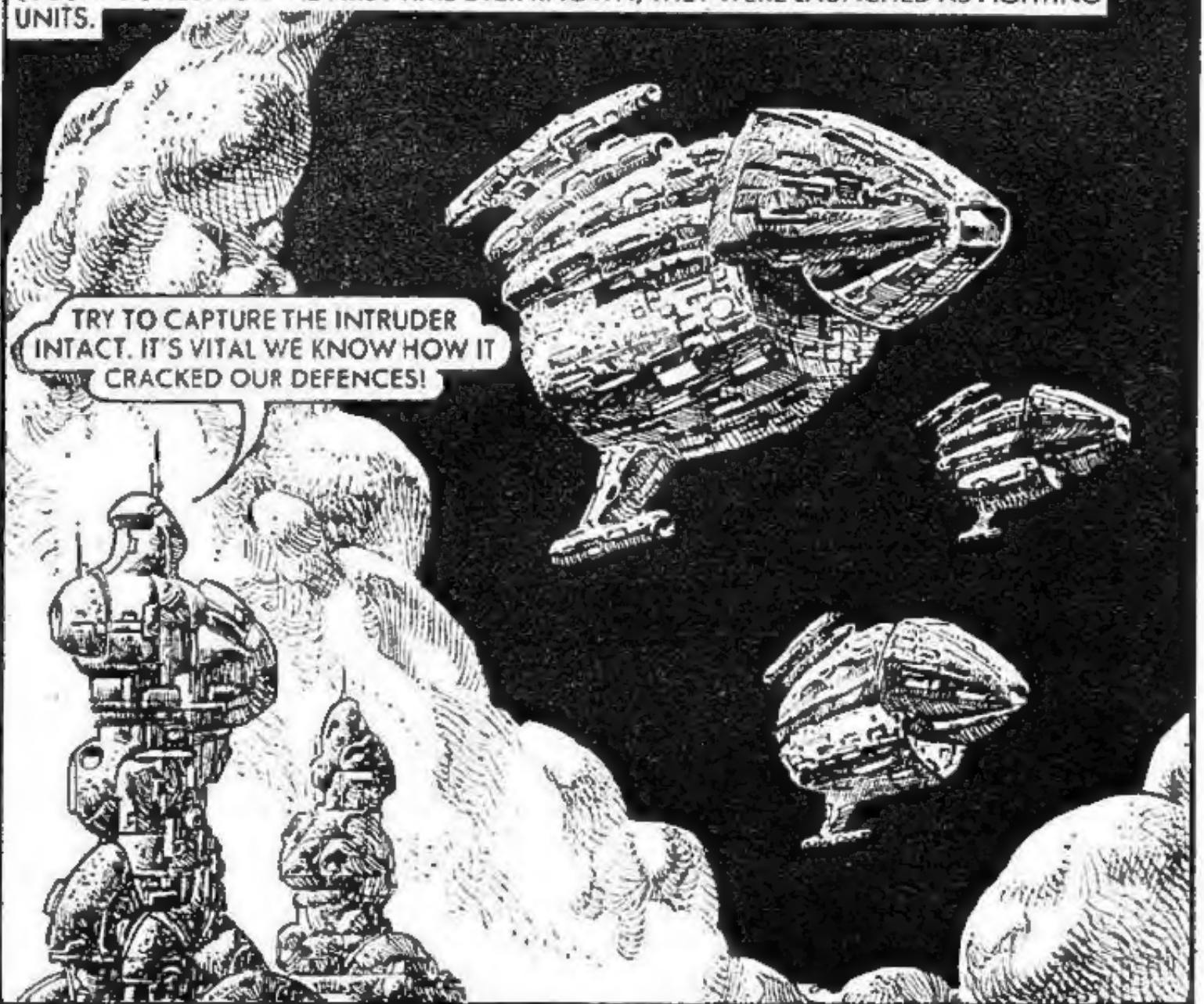


WHERE DID THAT CRAFT COME FROM? HIT THE ALARM BUTTON—IT'S ON A COLLISION COURSE.



LISTEN STARBASE: NEITHER THE OUTER NOR THE INNER PERIMETER SPHERES HAVE A TRACE OF THE INTRUDER. IT SOUNDS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT IT APPEARED FROM NOWHERE!

STARBASE, ON A PLANET AT THE EDGE OF THE GALAXY, MAINTAINED A SQUADRON FOR ESCORT DUTIES. FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER KNOWN, THEY WERE LAUNCHED AS FIGHTING UNITS.



TRY TO CAPTURE THE INTRUDER INTACT. IT'S VITAL WE KNOW HOW IT CRACKED OUR DEFENCES!

THE YOUNGEST PILOT IN THE SQUADRON WAS RUSSEL TAUR —

THIS IS GOING TO BE TRICKY.
THAT CRAFT IS SO MUCH
LARGER THAN OURS.

THE EARTH CRAFT MOVED IN —

LEADER TO ALL UNITS: IT DOESN'T
RESPOND TO ANY CHALLENGE CALL-
SIGNS. DEPLOY INTO ATTACK FORMATION.



THE SQUADRON DEPLOYED INTO AN ENCIRCLING FORMATION AND GOT A TRACTOR-BEAM HOLD ON THE ALIEN CRAFT —

TAKE THE STRAIN THEN TRY TO
SHIFT HER FIVE DEGREES INTO THE GREEN.

THE ALIEN CRAFT WAS DIVERTED, AND THE COLLISION WITH STARBASE ONE WAS AVERTED.

SET DOWN IN THE DESERT WHERE
WE CAN USE NEUTRITE MISSILES IF NEED BE.

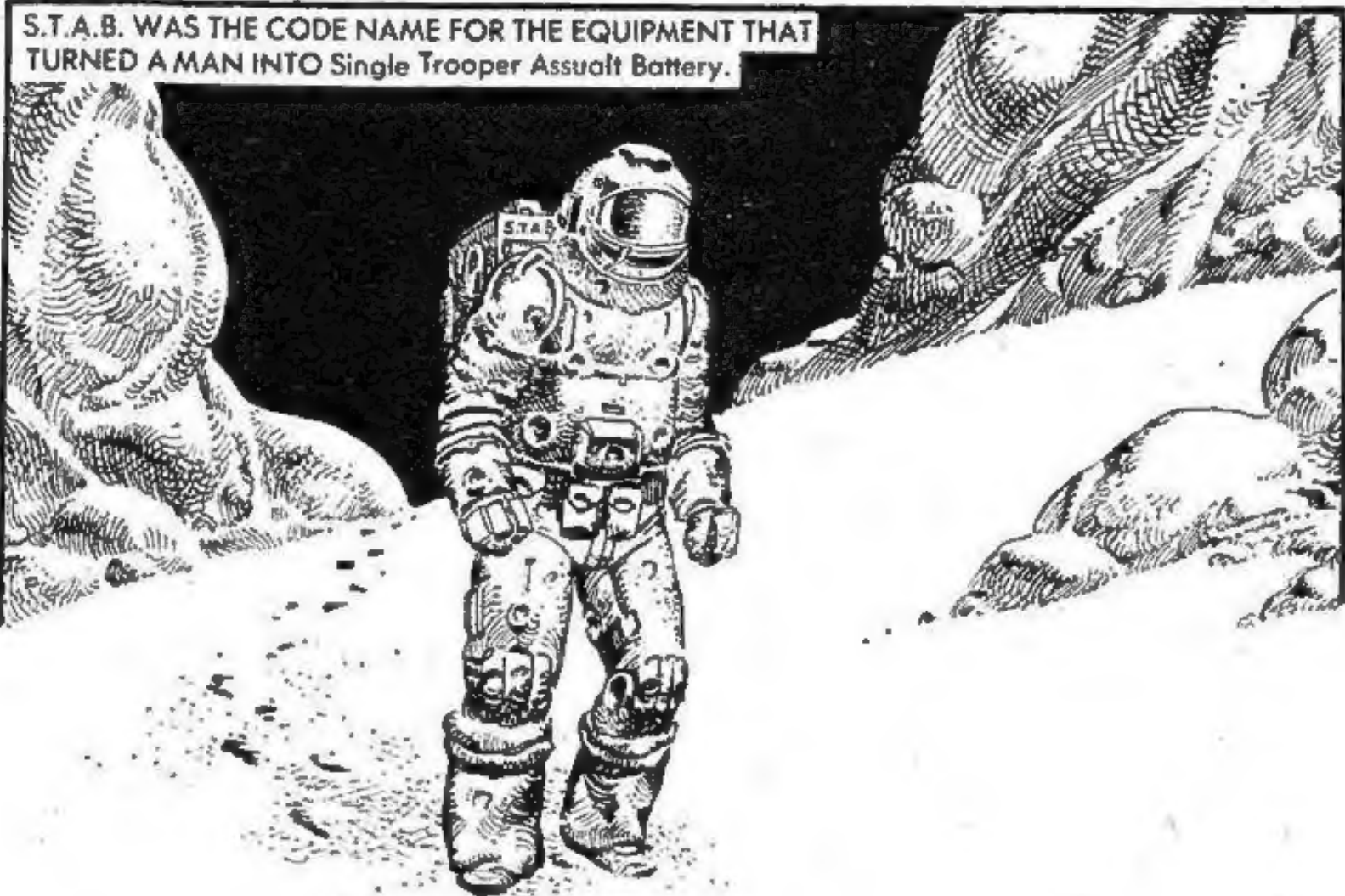
WITH NO REAL WAY OF CONTROLLING THE ALIEN SHIP'S DESCENT, A CRASH LANDING WAS UNAVOIDABLE.

RUSS, I WANT YOU TO MAKE THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE ALIEN CRAFT USING A S.T.A.B. UNIT.

I'M ON MY WAY, COMMANDER.



S.T.A.B. WAS THE CODE NAME FOR THE EQUIPMENT THAT TURNED A MAN INTO Single Trooper Assault Battery.




THE SENSORS REGISTER A VOID
BEHIND THIS SECTION OF HULL. THAT
MAKES IT SUITABLE FOR A NEW
DOORWAY.

JUPE! WHAT A CRAFT! THE ORGANIC
SEARCH PROBE REGISTERS A FAINT TRACE
OF LIFE-FORM SOMEWHERE AT THE CENTRE
OF THE SHIP.




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I'M ALMOST AT THE SHIP'S CORE, AND NEITHER MAN NOR MACHINE HAS MADE ANY MOVE AGAINST ME, YET THERE'S LIFE OF SOME SORT ON BOARD.


THE ORGANIC SEARCH PROBE SHOWS LIFE IMMEDIATELY BEHIND THIS DOOR. I'LL BLOW THE HINGES AND STORM THEM WITH STUNN-GAZ GRENADES.

BUT THE HATCH SWUNG OPEN BEFORE RUSS COULD
FIRE HIS BLAST-PACKS.




GREETINGS MAN OF TERRAN-SPACE,
YOU MAY ENTER WITHOUT FEAR FOR
YOUR WELL-BEING.

THE ALIEN'S WORDS REACHED RUSS ON A SUB-CONSCIOUS
LEVEL — MIND SPEAKING TO MIND WITHOUT THE NEED FOR LANGUAGE.



THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME, TERRAN-MAN. MY BODY HAS SUFFERED STRESSES WHICH WILL END ITS FUNCTIONING. I MUST GIVE YOU THE CONTENTS OF MY MIND BEFORE THE BODY-SUPPORT SYSTEM DIES. REMOVE YOUR HELMET AND BRING YOUR FACE CLOSE TO MINE, OTHERWISE YOUR WHOLE WORLD MAY BE ENSLAVED, AS MINE HAS BEEN.



YOU SHOULD REALLY SPEAK TO HIGH-COMMAND, BUT IF TIME'S RUNNING SHORT, I'LL PASS YOUR MESSAGE ON.

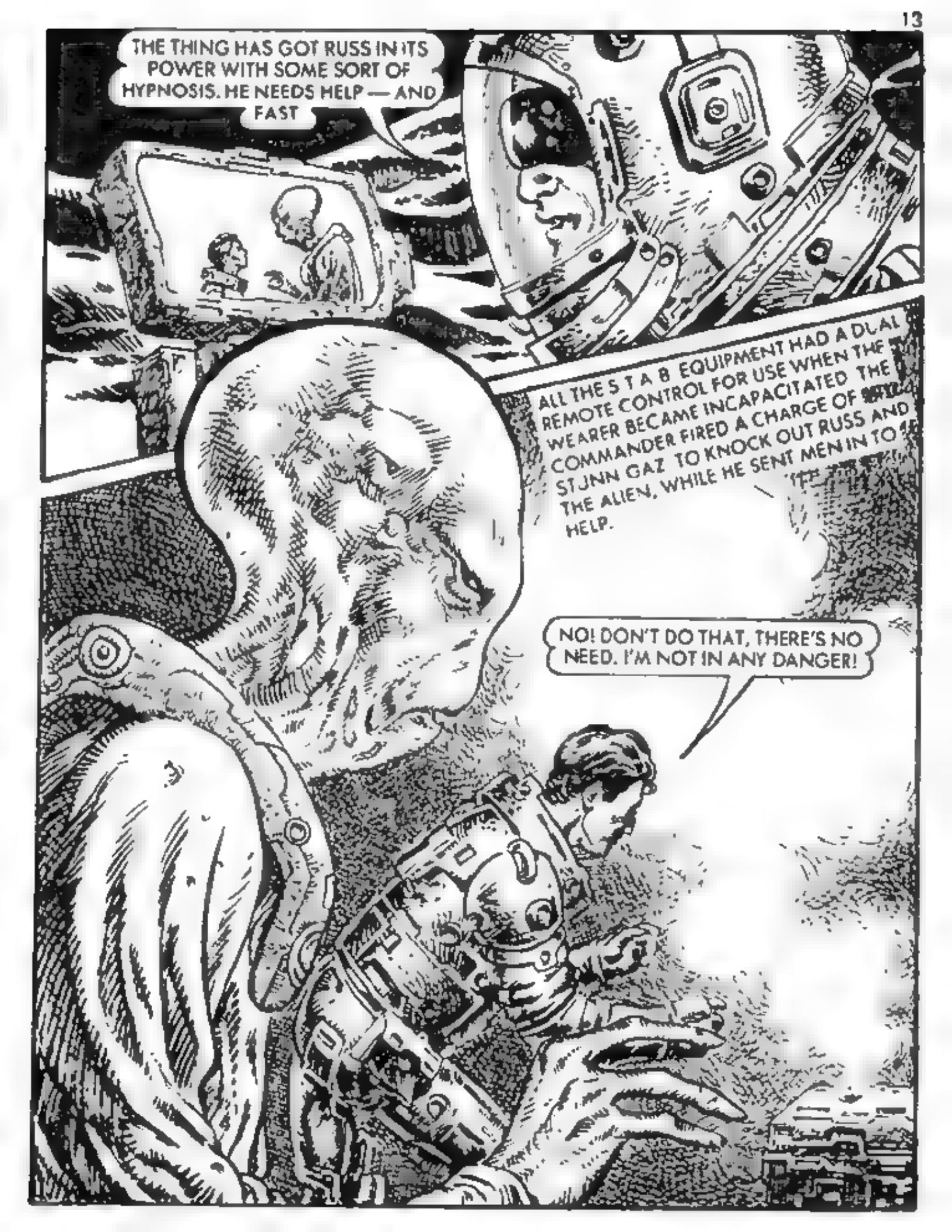
RUSS FELT INFORMATION FLOWING INTO HIS HEAD

IT'S AS IF MY MIND'S A
COMPUTER STORAGE UNIT
AND SOMEONE IS LOADING
ME WITH NEW TAPES.



A STANDARD FITTING FOR
A S.T.A.B. UNIT WAS A
CAMERA TO MONITOR
ACTION FOR THE BENEFIT
OF THE BACK-UP FORCES.
PICTURES OF
RUSS'S STRANGE
ENCOUNTER WITH THE
ALIEN WERE BEING TRANS-
MITTED TO THE
SQUADRON-
COMMANDER.





THE THING HAS GOT RUSS IN ITS
POWER WITH SOME SORT OF
HYPNOSIS. HE NEEDS HELP — AND
FAST

ALL THE S T A B EQUIPMENT HAD A DUAL
REMOTE CONTROL FOR USE WHEN THE
WEARER BECAME INCAPACITATED. THE
COMMANDER FIRED A CHARGE OF STUN
STUN GAZ TO KNOCK OUT RUSS AND
THE ALIEN, WHILE HE SENT MEN IN TO
HELP.

NO! DON'T DO THAT, THERE'S NO
NEED. I'M NOT IN ANY DANGER!



I'M SORRY THEY
MEANT NO HARM

DON'T WORRY... IT WILL EASE
MY PAIN BEFORE I GO
FOREVER

THEN RUSS COLLAPSED

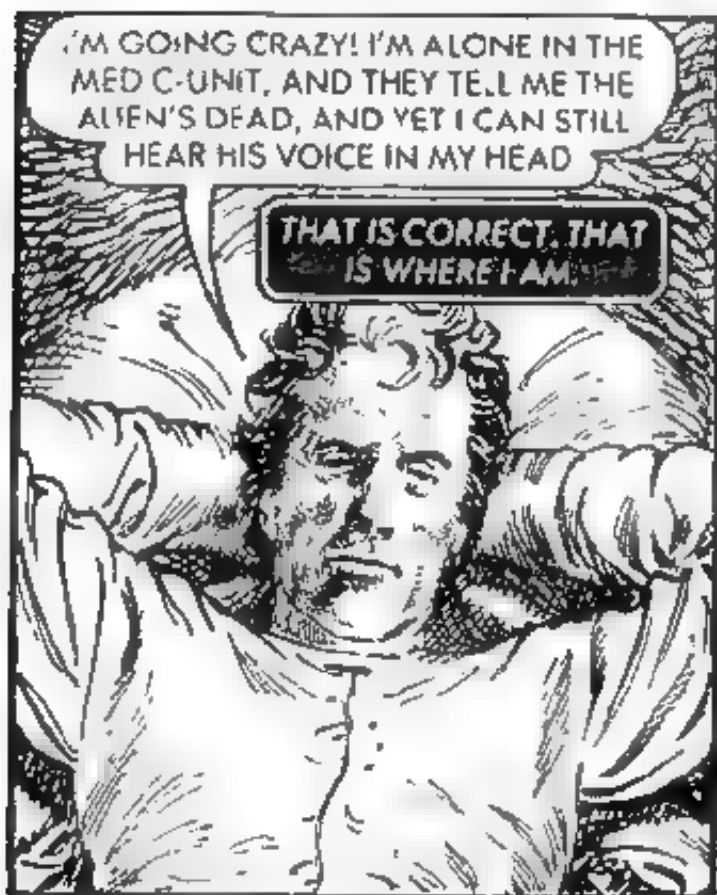
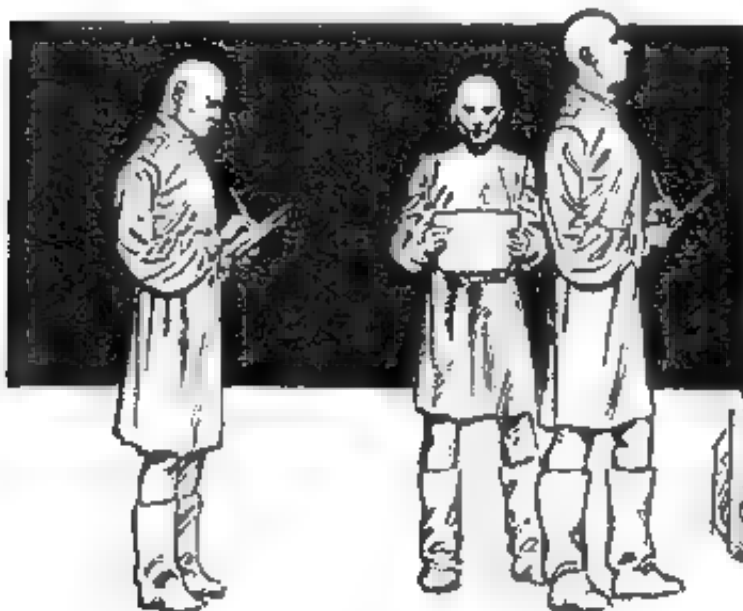


OTHERS ARRIVED

RUSS IS OUT — A SPELL IN THE
MEDIC POD WILL SEE HIM FIT AGAIN

BAD NEWS ABOUT THE ALIEN FOR
HIGH COMMAND IT SEEMS TO BE DEAD

WHILE RUSS WAS PURGED OF ANY ILL-EFFECTS FROM THE STUNN-GAZ, STAR-FORCE SCIENTISTS SEARCHED THE ALIEN CRAFT FOR CLUES TO ITS ORIGIN, WITHOUT SUCCESS. THE DEATH OF THE ALIEN BEING WAS A MYSTERY. THE CORPSE HELD NO IDENTIFIABLE CAUSE OF DEATH. THE ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES WERE HOWEVER WHERE THEY WERE LEAST EXPECTED — WITHIN THE MEDIC-POD WITH RUSS

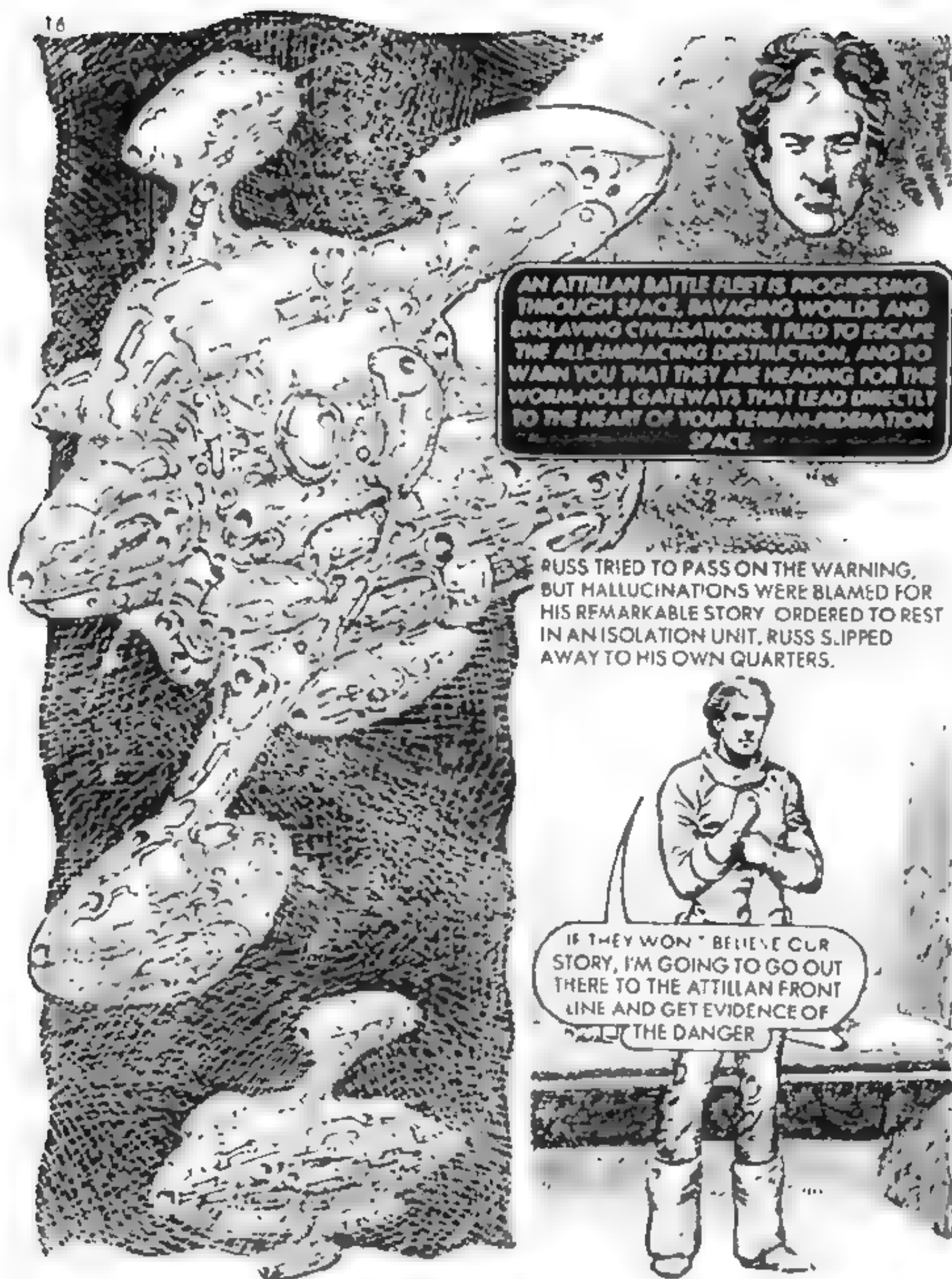


I'M GOING CRAZY! I'M ALONE IN THE MED C-UNIT, AND THEY TELL ME THE ALIEN'S DEAD, AND YET I CAN STILL HEAR HIS VOICE IN MY HEAD

THAT IS CORRECT, THAT IS WHERE I AM.

MY RACE TRANSFERS THE ELECTRO-IMPULSES OF MEMORY FROM ONE BRAIN TO ANOTHER WHEN THE HOST BODY FAILS. YOUR BRAIN IS OF SIMILAR BIOLOGICAL STRUCTURE AND HAD ENOUGH SPARE CELLS TO HOUSE ME WITHOUT DISTURBING YOUR OWN MEMORY. IF YOU ARE READY, I WILL TRANSFER TO YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS THE REASON WHY I CAME TO YOUR SECTOR OF SPACE-TIME.





AN ATILLAN BATTLE FLEET IS PROGRESSING THROUGH SPACE, BAVAGING WORLDS AND ENSLAVING CIVILISATIONS. I TRIED TO ESCAPE THE ALL-EMBRACING DESTRUCTION, AND TO WARN YOU THAT THEY ARE HEADING FOR THE WORM-HOLE GATEWAYS THAT LEAD DIRECTLY TO THE HEART OF YOUR TERRAN-FEDERATION SPACE.

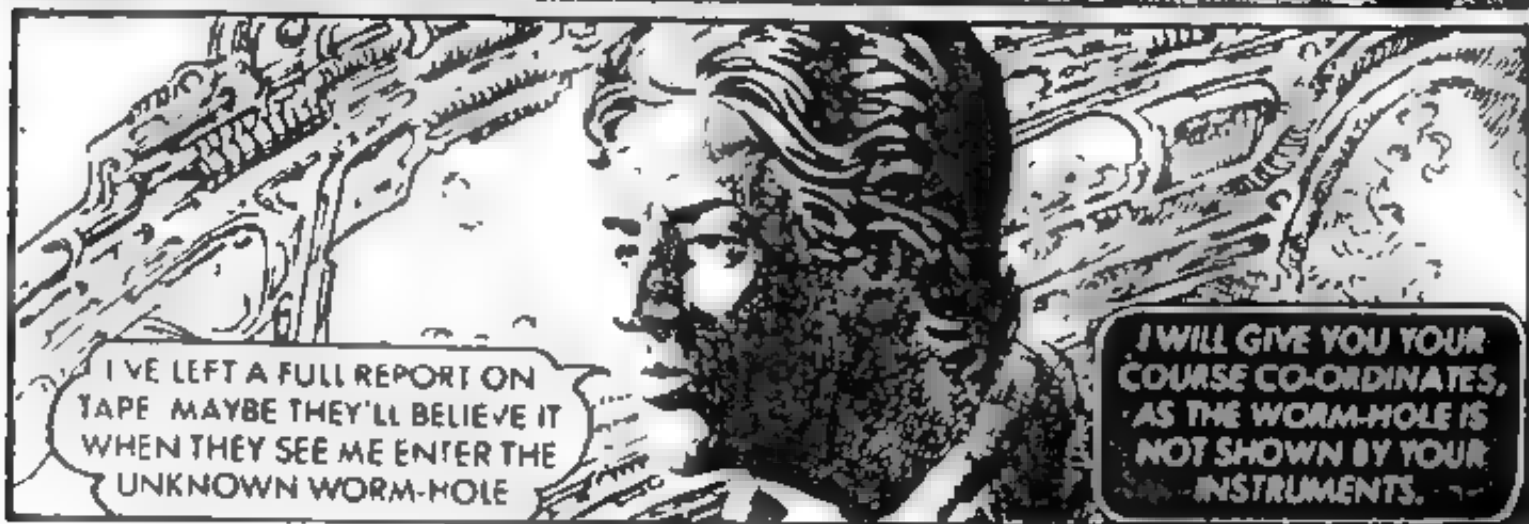
RUSS TRIED TO PASS ON THE WARNING, BUT HALLUCINATIONS WERE BLAMED FOR HIS REMARKABLE STORY. ORDERED TO REST IN AN ISOLATION UNIT, RUSS SLIPPED AWAY TO HIS OWN QUARTERS.

IF THEY WON'T BELIEVE OUR STORY, I'M GOING TO GO OUT THERE TO THE ATILLAN FRONT LINE AND GET EVIDENCE OF THE DANGER.

UNCHALLENGED, RUSS TOOK OFF IN HIS OWN FIGHTER —



UNAUTHORISED TAKE OFF! IT'S RUSS TAJR'S
SHIP — BUT HE'S ON THE SICK LIST!




I'VE LEFT A FULL REPORT ON
TAPE MAYBE THEY'LL BELIEVE IT
WHEN THEY SEE ME ENTER THE
UNKNOWN WORM-HOLE

I WILL GIVE YOU YOUR
COURSE CO-ORDINATES,
AS THE WORM-HOLE IS
NOT SHOWN BY YOUR
INSTRUMENTS.




RUSS IF YOU CAN
HEAR ME, TURN BACK

IMPOSSIBLE! RUSS HAS ENTERED A
WORM-HOLE; BUT THERE ISN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE ONE WITHIN
SPACIALS OF THIS SECTOR




BACK TO STARBASE-ONE! WE DAREN'T
ENTER AN UNKNOWN WORM-HOLE
WITHOUT A PROPER FORCE
SUPPORTING US.

STAR-FORCE HIGH-COMMAND MET IMMEDIATELY, IN EMERGENCY SESSION,
TO DECIDE THEIR RESPONSE TO THE NEWLY DISCOVERED WORM-HOLE



OUR WHOLE DEFENCE STRATEGY
DEPENDS ON PLUGGING WORM-
HOLES. ALL FORCES WILL BE PUT ON-
WAR FOOTING UNTIL WE'VE
DISCOVERED HOW THIS ONE EVADED
DETECTION. WE ALSO ACCEPT THE
REPORT LEFT BY PILOT RUSSEL TAUR,
UNTIL WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION.

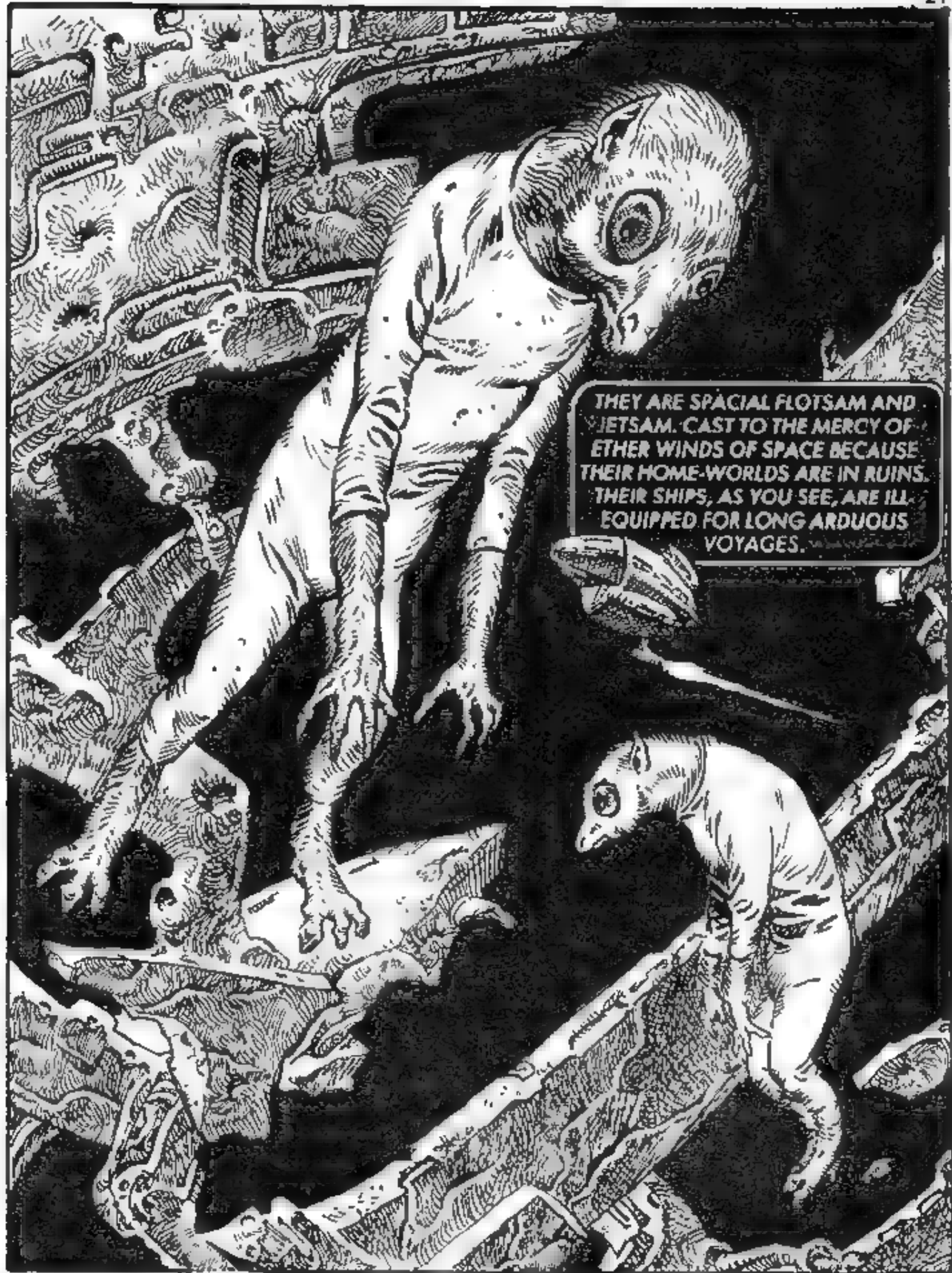


MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER SPACE-TIME SECTOR OF THE GALAXY, RUSS EMERGED FROM HYPER-SPACE AMID AN ALIEN FLEET

IS THIS THE ATTILAN
BATTLE FLEET?

NO RUSS! THEY ARE REFUGEES WHO FLEE
AHEAD OF THE WAVE OF DESTRUCTION,
DOOMED TO AN ENDLESS SEARCH FOR
SAFETY UNLESS THE ATTILAN WARLORDS
CAN BE STOPPED.





THEY ARE SPACIAL FLOTSAM AND
JETSAM. CAST TO THE MERCY OF
ETHER WINDS OF SPACE BECAUSE
THEIR HOME-WORLDS ARE IN RUINS.
THEIR SHIPS, AS YOU SEE, ARE ILL-
EQUIPPED FOR LONG ARDUOUS
VOYAGES.

RUSS SET HIS COURSE, AGAINST THE TIDE OF REFUGEE SHIPS, TO GET FIRST-HAND DATA ON THE ATTILAN STRENGTHS AS THEY ATTACKED SELECTED CRAFT

JUPE! I NEVER THOUGHT TO SEE A WARSHIP THAT SIZE OUTSIDE OF STAR-FORCE. WE'D HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT AGAINST A FLEET OF THOSE CRAFT

WHY IS HE ATTACKING THAT FREIGHTER?

THE ATTILAN NEEDS NO REASON TO DESTROY. IT IS HIS BASIC WAY OF LIFE.



THE ATTILLAN WAS
UNPREPARED FOR
RUSS'S SUDDEN
ATTACK, AND
RECEIVED SEVERE
DAMAGE —

LET'S SEE HOW THE BULLY-BOY'S
ARMOUR STANDS UP CLOSE IN.

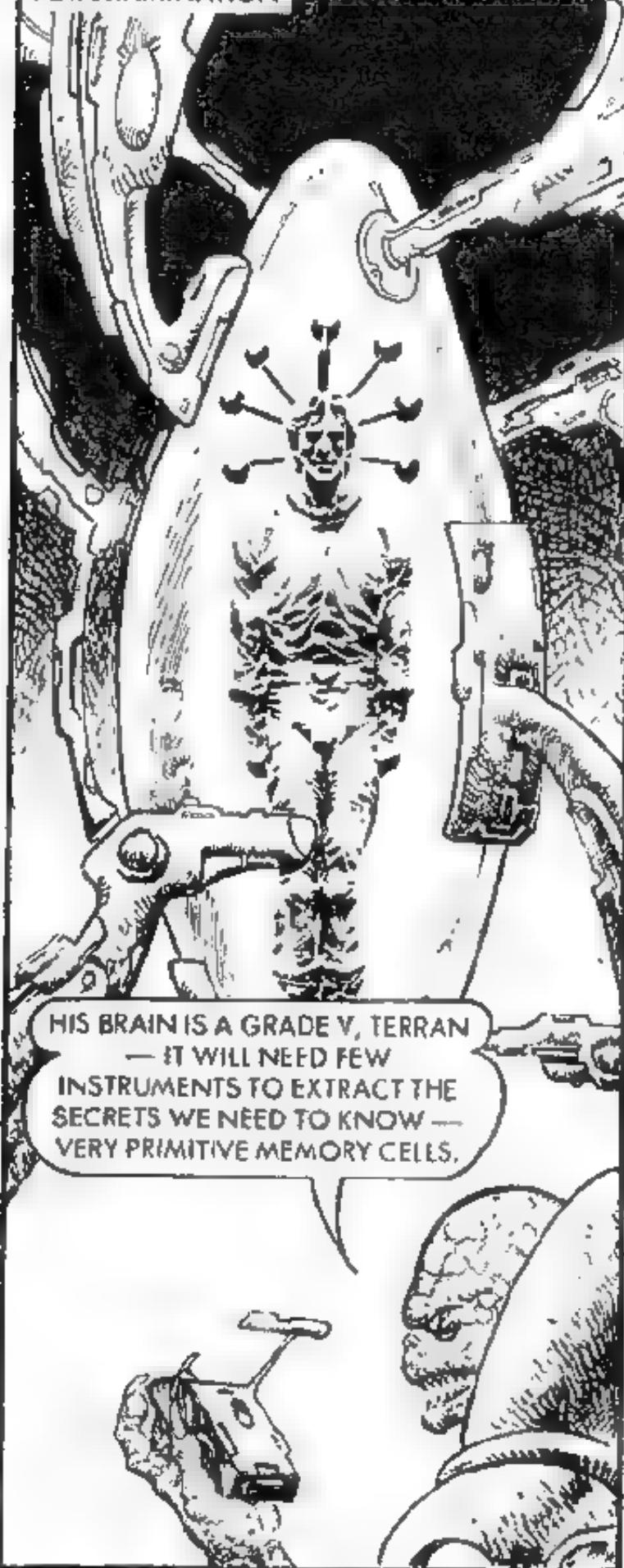
THE ATTILIAN CAPTAIN DID NOT TAKE LONG TO RECOVER FROM THE SURPRISE ATTACK.

ACTIVATE THE BRYTHORN BUFFER RAY! I WANT THIS UNIDENTIFIED ATTACKER BROUGHT TO ME ALIVE!

THE BRYTHORN BUFFER RAY ENCLOSED A SHIP IN AN ELECTRONIC MESH CAUSING A TOTAL SYSTEMS FAILURE

SHIP'S HELD FAST, CAN'T MOVE MYSELF. STAR-
FORCE NEED TO KNOW THAT THE WEAPON
SYSTEMS ARE IN ADVANCE OF OURS ... IF I LIVE
TO TELL THE TALE!

THE ATTILANS DREW THE HELPLESS FIGHTER-SHIP INTO THEIR HOLD, AND EXTRACTED RUSS FOR EXAMINATION



HIS BRAIN IS A GRADE V, TERRAN — IT WILL NEED FEW INSTRUMENTS TO EXTRACT THE SECRETS WE NEED TO KNOW — VERY PRIMITIVE MEMORY CELLS.

KEEP CALM, RUSS. I HAVE TAKEN THE VITAL PART OF YOUR MEMORY INTO MY SECTION OF YOUR BRAIN FOR SAFE KEEPING. THEIR EQUIPMENT CANNOT PROBE DUPLICATE SYSTEMS.



THE ATTILLAN STORED RUSS IN A SHIP-BOARD LOCK UP WHILE HE COULD BE SUBJECTED TO THE REFINED EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE AT THEIR BATTLE-STAR BASE.

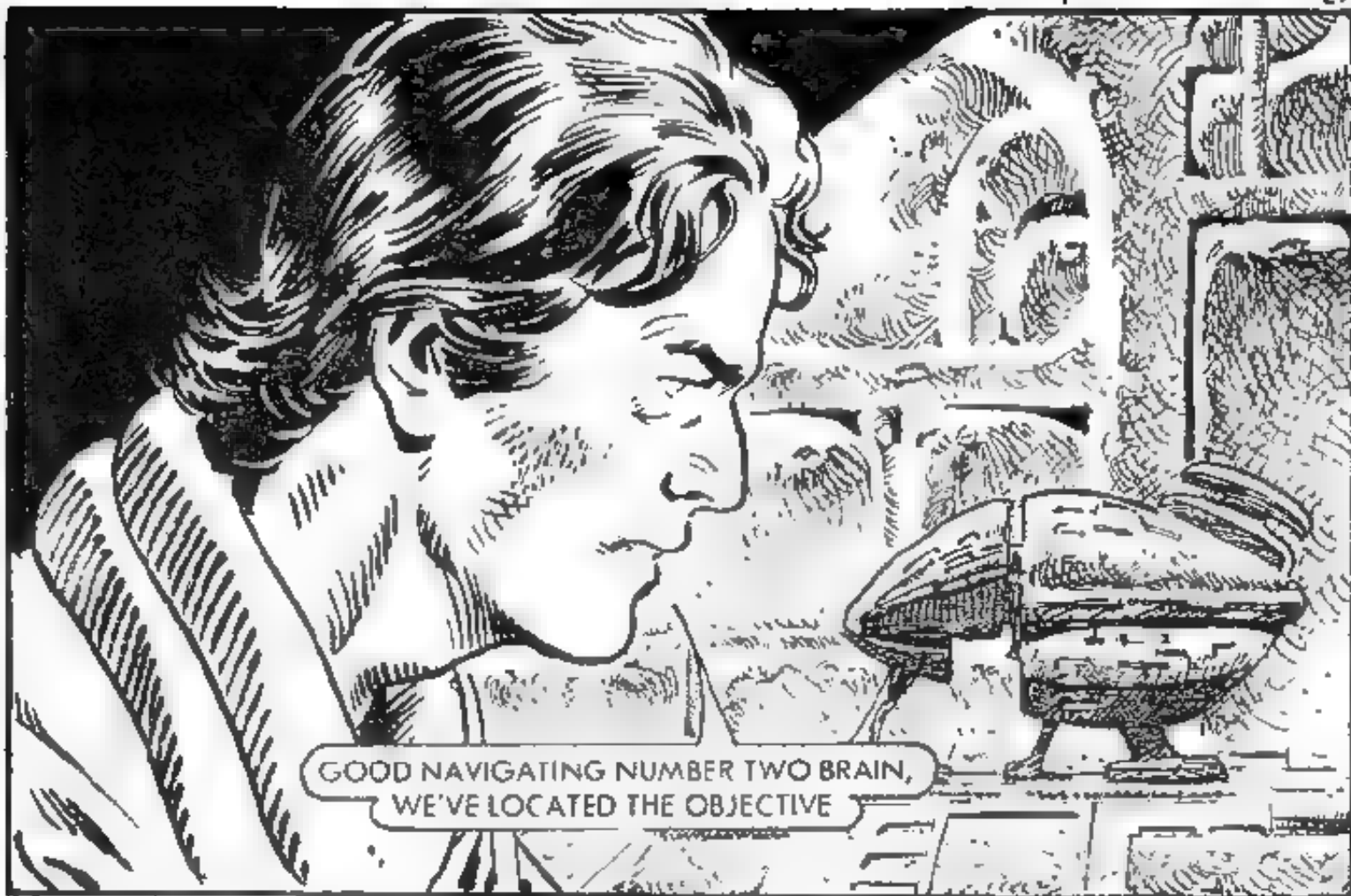
I'VE GOT A CAPSULE OF MOLECULAR-DISRUPT ON HIDDEN IN MY BOOT — THAT CAN GET US OUT OF HERE. THEN WE TRY TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE SHIP IF YOU KNOW THE WAY.



I KNOW THE LAYOUT RUSS — I WILL GUIDE YOU.

THE SPRAY DISRUPTED THE FORCE THAT CAUSED MOLECULES TO BIND TOGETHER





GOOD NAVIGATING NUMBER TWO BRAIN,
WE'VE LOCATED THE OBJECTIVE



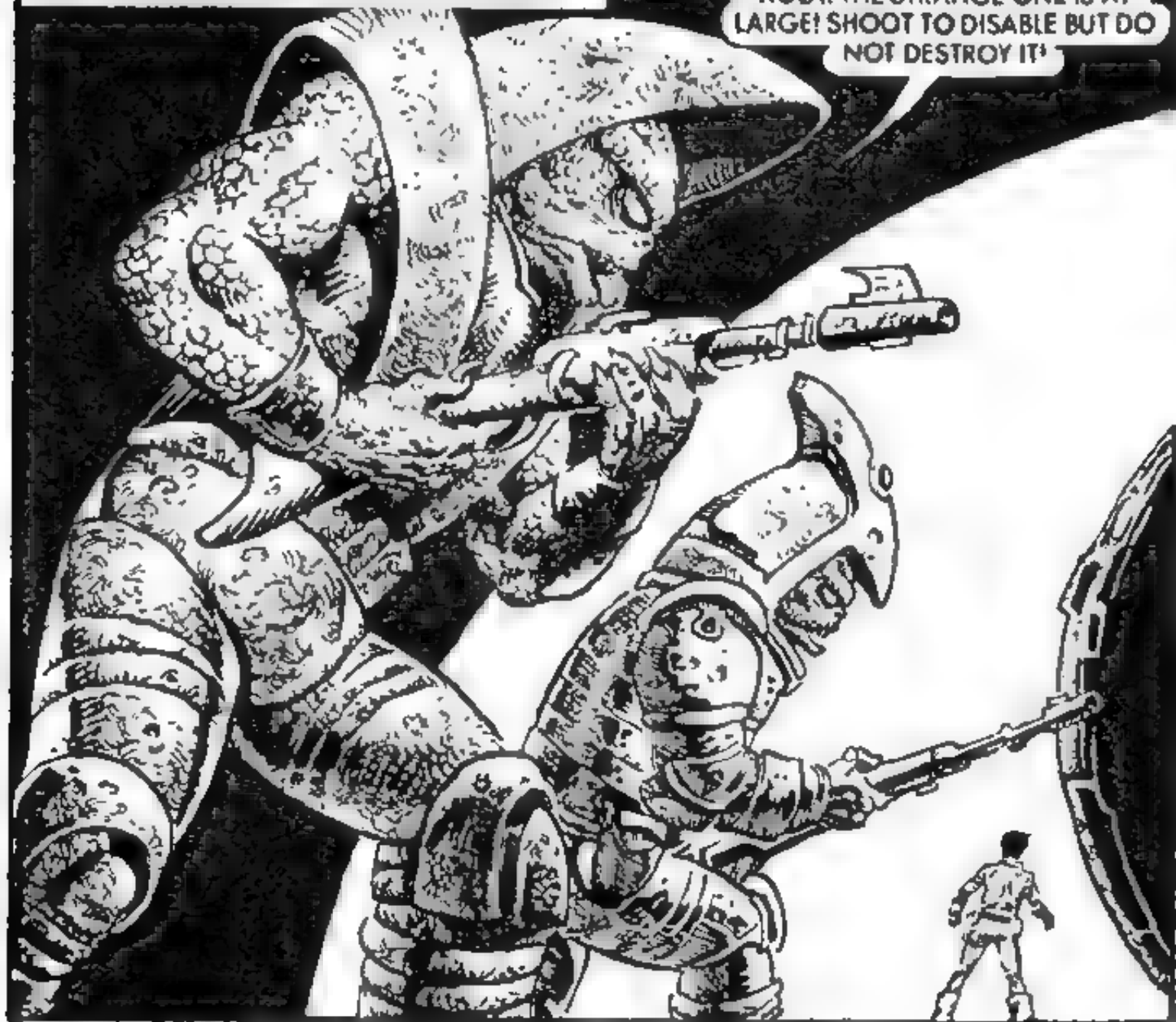
STILL NO GUARDS IN SIGHT.
THESE ATILLANS ARE OVER-CONFIDENT.



A BIT OF CRUDE SABOTAGE WILL SLOW
THEM UP. I'LL SET THE MAIN DRIVE
POWER CORE TO OVERLOAD—IT'LL
EXPLODE IN A SHORT TIME

RUSS'S DISAPPEARANCE HAD BEEN NOTICED —

HOLA! THE STRANGE ONE IS AT
LARGE! SHOOT TO DISABLE BUT DO
NOT DESTROY IT!



WE'VE STIRRED UP A HORNET'S NEST!
ANY IDEAS ABOUT A HIDING PLACE
NUMBER TWO BRAIN?

YOUR CONTINUED DEFIANCE OF
IMPOSSIBLE ODDS IS OUTSIDE MY
EXPERIENCE; I CANNOT HELP YOU.



SURRENDER, STRANGE ONE YOU
ARE POWERLESS AGAINST ME WITHOUT A WEAPON

YOU RECKONED WITHOUT MY
OFFENSIVE SHOULDER.



NOW TO FIND SOMEWHERE
TO HIDE



AFTER A LONG FLIGHT



I'M LOST —
AND CORNERED.

THERE'S SOME SORT OF GRAVITY CHUTE
HERE. IT'S A CHOICE OF THE GUARDS AT
OUR BACK OR THE UNKNOWN AT THE END
OF THE CHUTE, SO HERE GOES.



RUSS PLUNGED DOWN THE
SHAFT —


-- ONLY TO LAND AT THE FEET OF TWO GUARDS

WELCOME TO THE PRISON HOLD,
STRANGE ONE. YOU SAVED US THE
TROUBLE OF BRINGING YOU HERE!



DON'T TRY BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS
OF THIS PLACE, STRANGE ONE, BECAUSE
THERE'S NOTHING BUT BLACK SPACE ON THE
OTHER SIDE.





I WOULDN'T HAVE RISKED THAT SABOTAGE
WITH THE OLD SHIP IF I'D KNOWN ALL
THESE INNOCENT ALIENS WERE ON
BOARD. YOU SHOULD HAVE WARNED ME
NUMBER TWO BRAIN

BE CALM! THE ATTILLANS ONLY TAKE
IMPORTANT PRISONERS, THE REST THEY
SLAUGHTER— THEREFORE WE ARE
SAFEGUARDED WELL, AS YOU'LL SEE.

WHILE RUSS LANGUISHED IN THE LOCK-UP CELL, THE
ATTILLANS WERE ABOUT TO DISCOVER THAT THE R
JUBILATION AT RECAPTURING HIM WAS TO BE SHORT
LIVED

TELL ME, WHAT DOES
"POWER-CORE OVERLOAD" MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW!

THE ATTILIAN GUARDS NEVER FOUND OUT, BECAUSE THE POWER CORE EXPLODED CAUSING MUCH DAMAGE—



THE EXPLOSION CREATED ALARM IN THE ATTILIAN CONTROL ROOM.

OVER FIFTY PER CENT OF OUR
SYSTEMS ARE CRITICAL. I ORDER —
ABANDON SHIP!

THE SHOCK-WAVE OF THE EXPLOSION REACHED THE PRISON HOLD BUT NO IMMEDIATE DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS
SHIP IS NOT WORTH THE
DEATH OF ALL THESE
INNOCENT PRISONERS.

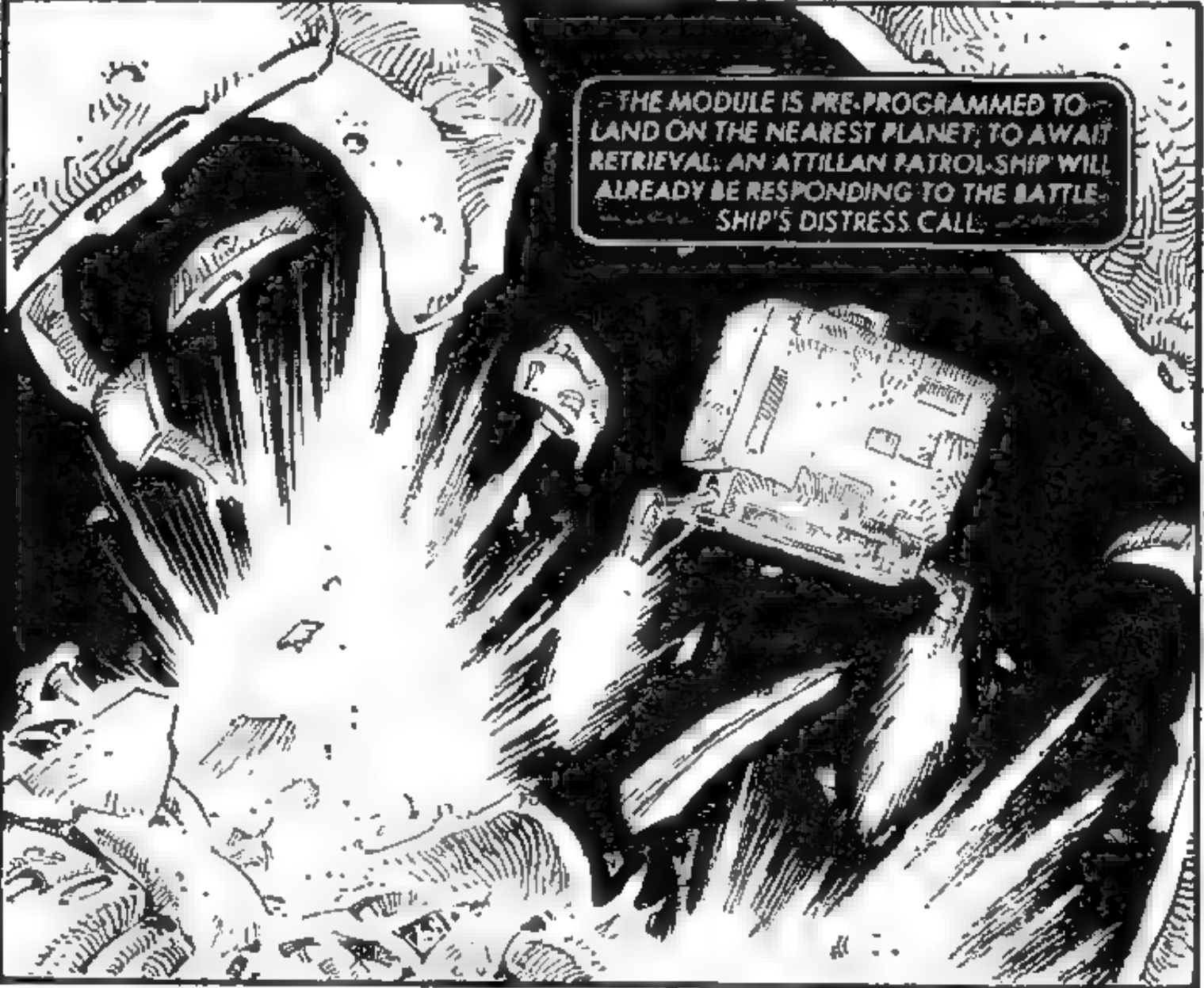
I SAID, KEEP CALM.



THE ABANDON SHIP PROCEDURE INCLUDED EJECTING ALL INTACT CARGO HOLDS, ALONG WITH THE LIFEBOATS

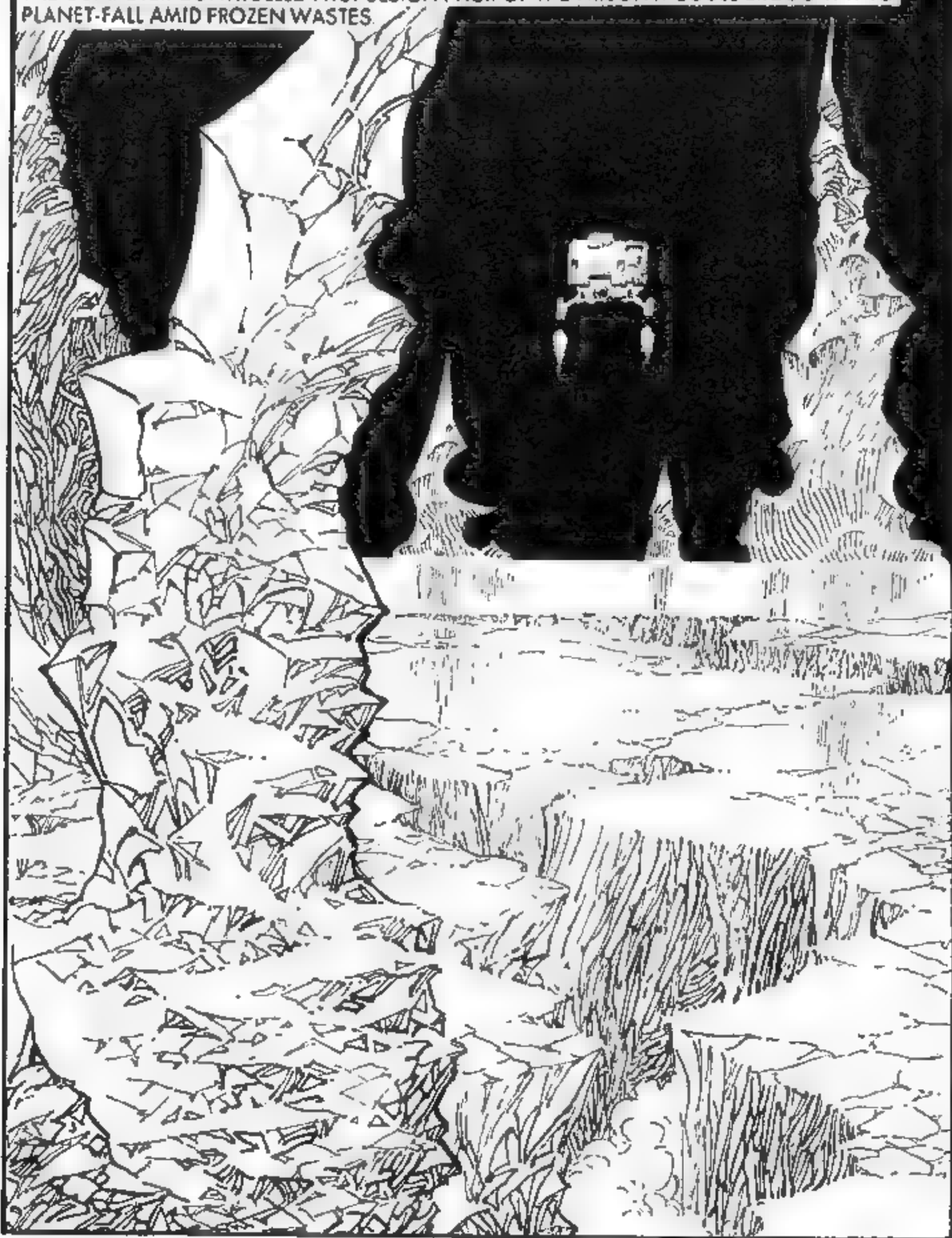


THAT JOLT YOU FELT WAS OUR PRISON MODULE BEING EJECTED CLEAR OF THE DAMAGED SHIP.




THE MODULE IS PRE-PROGRAMMED TO LAND ON THE NEAREST PLANET, TO AWAIT RETRIEVAL. AN ATTILLAN PATROL SHIP WILL ALREADY BE RESPONDING TO THE BATTLESHIP'S DISTRESS CALL.

THE COMPUTER CONTROLLED PROPULSION PACK OF THE PRISON MODULE BROUGHT IT TO PLANET-FALL AMID FROZEN WASTES.








WHAT ABOUT THE
OTHER PRISONERS?

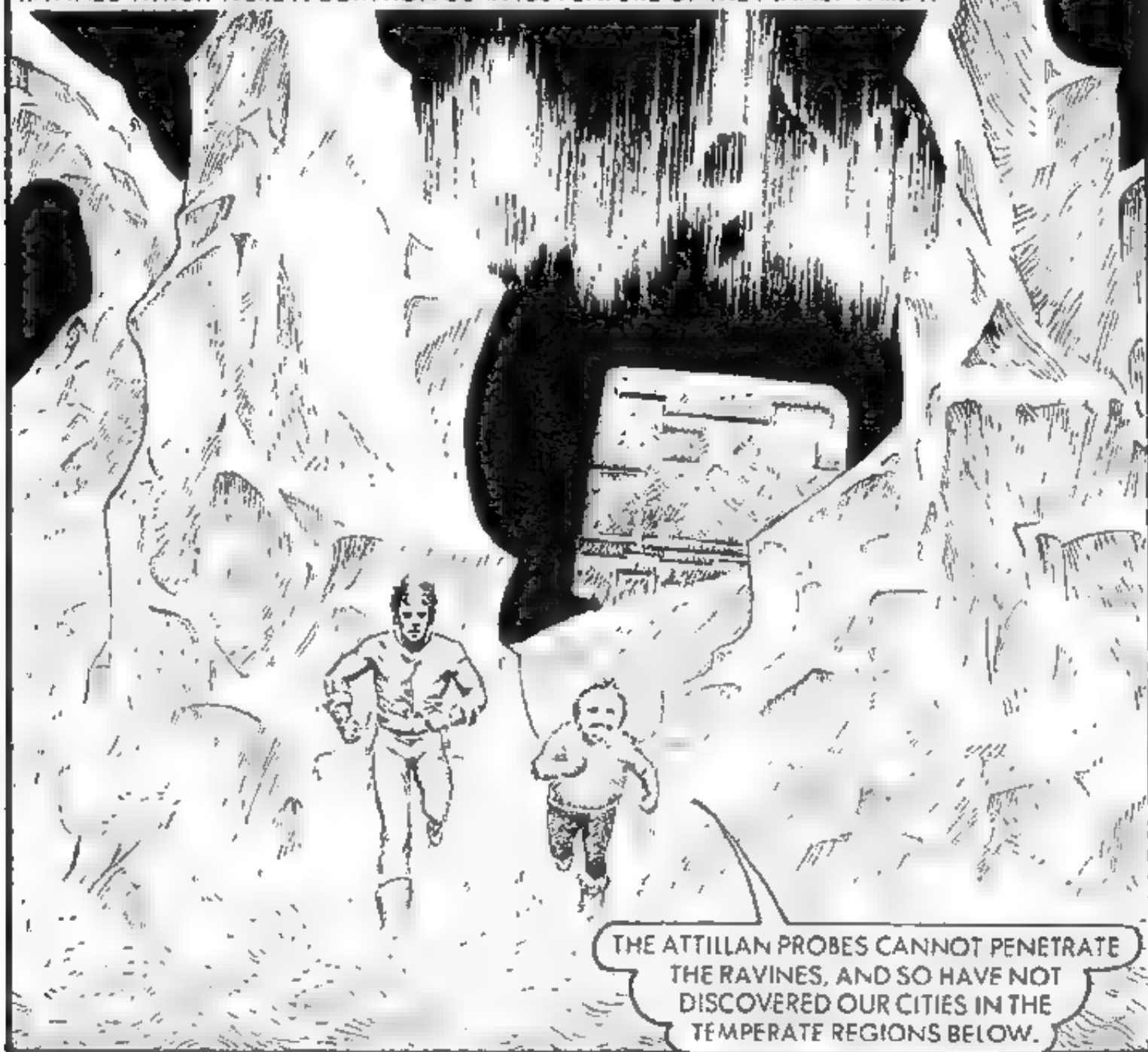
UNFORTUNATELY WE MUST LEAVE
THEM FOR THE ATTILLANS. A MASS
BREAK OUT WOULD AROUSE TOO
MUCH INTEREST IN THIS PLANET.

AN ATTILLAN SHIP PICKED UP THE MODULE —



THIS IS MY NATIVE PLANET, VARDY.
IT IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR
FREEDOM FROM THE ATTILLANS.
WITH LUCK WE
WON'T BE MISSED.

ONCE THE ATTILLAN SHIP HAD GONE, BOULDO LED RUSS TOWARDS ONE OF THE MIST-FILLED RAVINES WHICH WERE A COMMON SURFACE FEATURE OF THE PLANET VARDY.



AN AMAZING CIVILISATION EXISTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RAVINE. THE LAND AND WATERS KEPT WARM BY THE BLANKET OF MIST ABOVE.





THERE'S IMPRESSIVE FIRE-POWER HERE,
BUT ARE THE VARDANS REALLY FRIENDS?

WHAT LITTLE THAT IS KNOWN
OF VARDY, IS FAVOURABLE.

BOULDO HAS BROUGHT YOU BECAUSE
WE HAVE NEED OF FIGHTING MEN WITH
SPACE EXPERIENCE. WILL YOU JOIN OUR
FORCES?

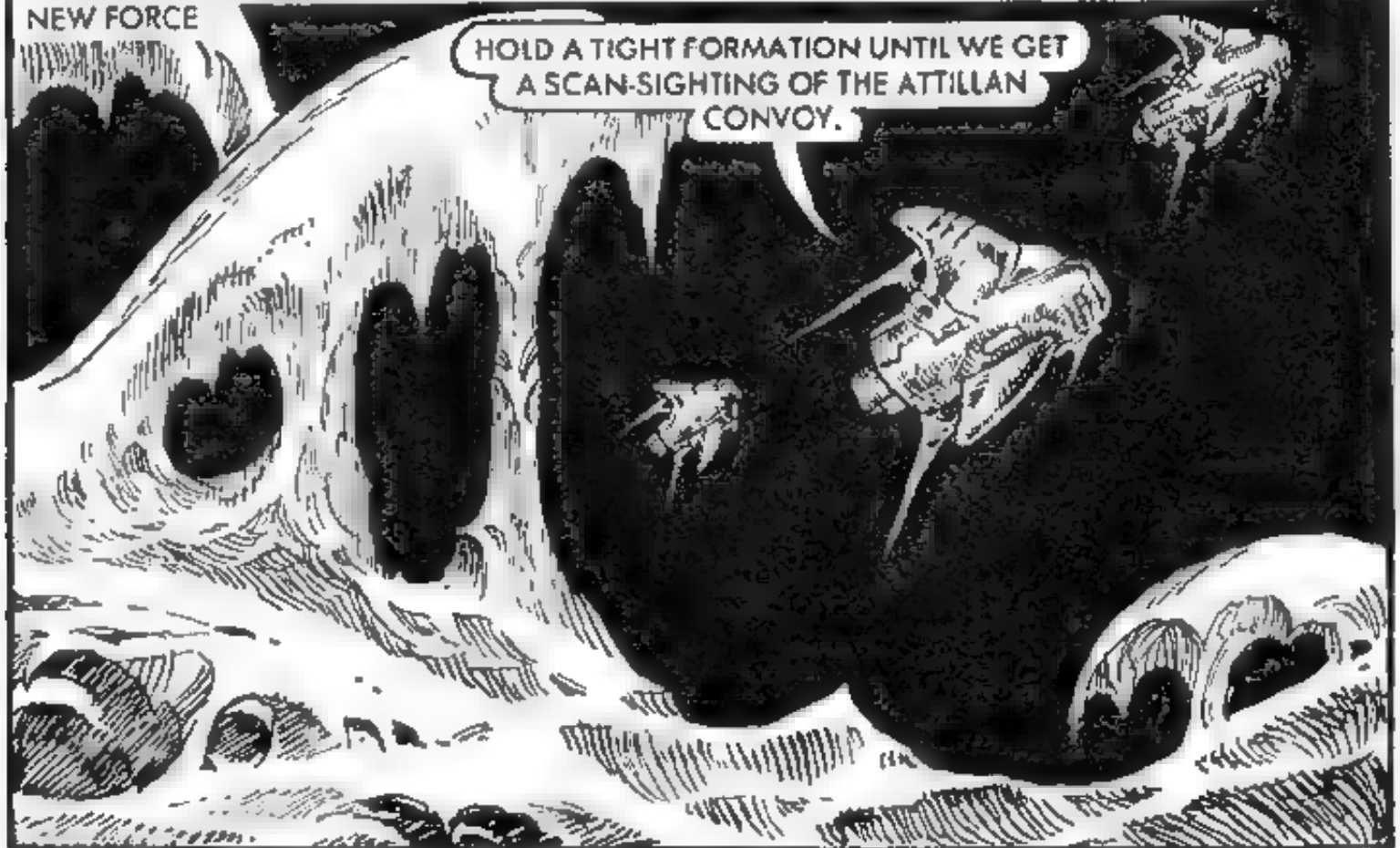
WHEN DO I START?


RUSS WAS SHOWN VARDAN TECHNOLOGY AND THE WEAPON SYSTEMS WERE EXPLAINED.



AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS, RUSS AND THE VARDANS FELT READY TO BLOOD THEIR NEW FORCE

HOLD A TIGHT FORMATION UNTIL WE GET A SCAN-SIGHTING OF THE ATTILLAN CONVOY.





THERE'S THE TARGET! A SUPPLY
CONVOY, TAKING VITRON FLUID
TO THE WEAPONS OF THE
ATTILLAN FRONT LINE BATTLE.

STAR



THE VARDAN SQUADRON DREW THE ESCORT FIGHTERS AWAY FROM THE ATTILLAN CONVOY
WHILE RUSS AND BOULDO APPROACHED THE OPPOSITE VECTOR.

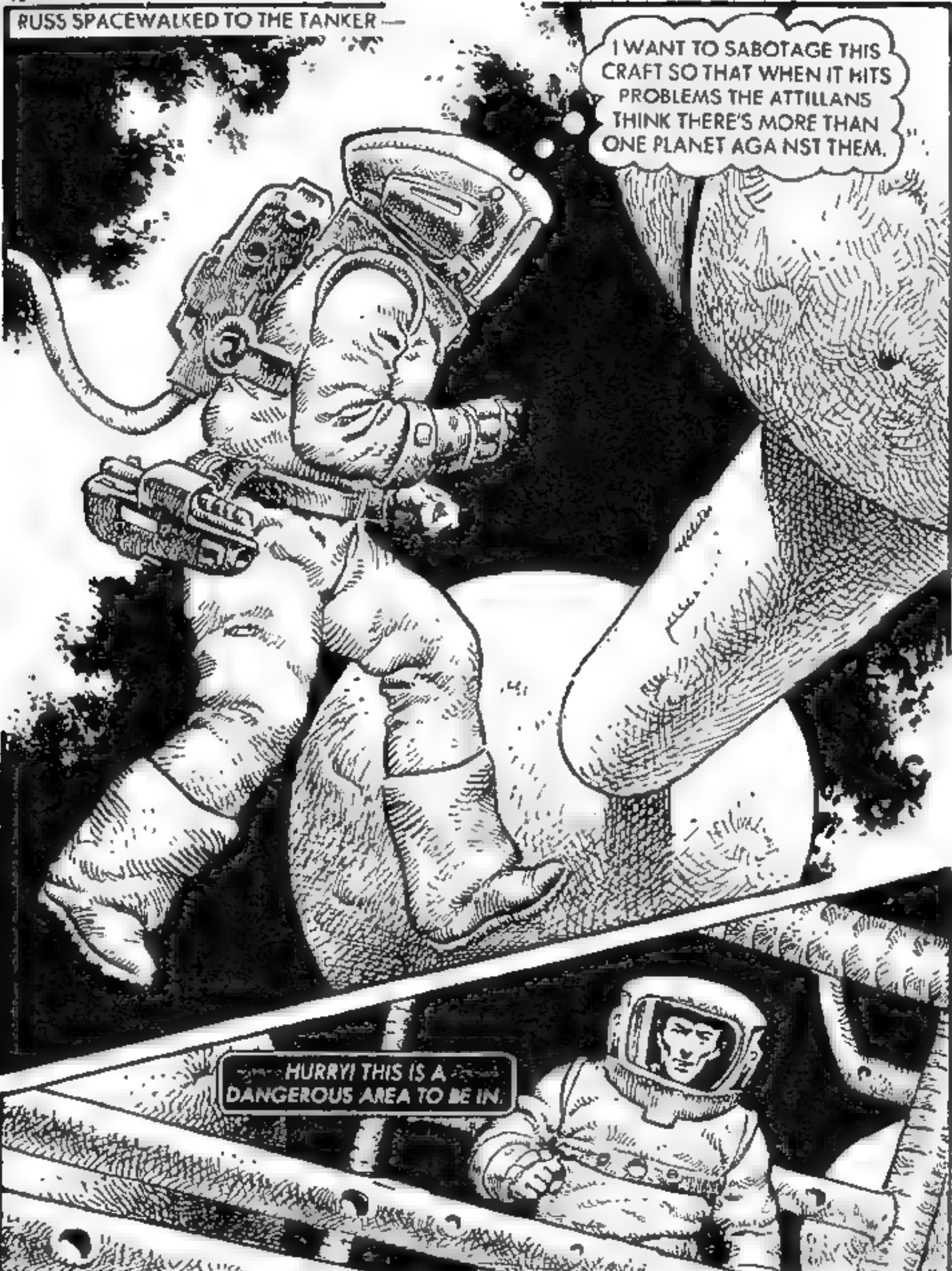
BREAK FORMATION BEFORE WE GET
AN ATTILLAN ON OUR TAIL.



45
RUSS AND BOULDO WERE UNDETECTED BY THE CONVOY.

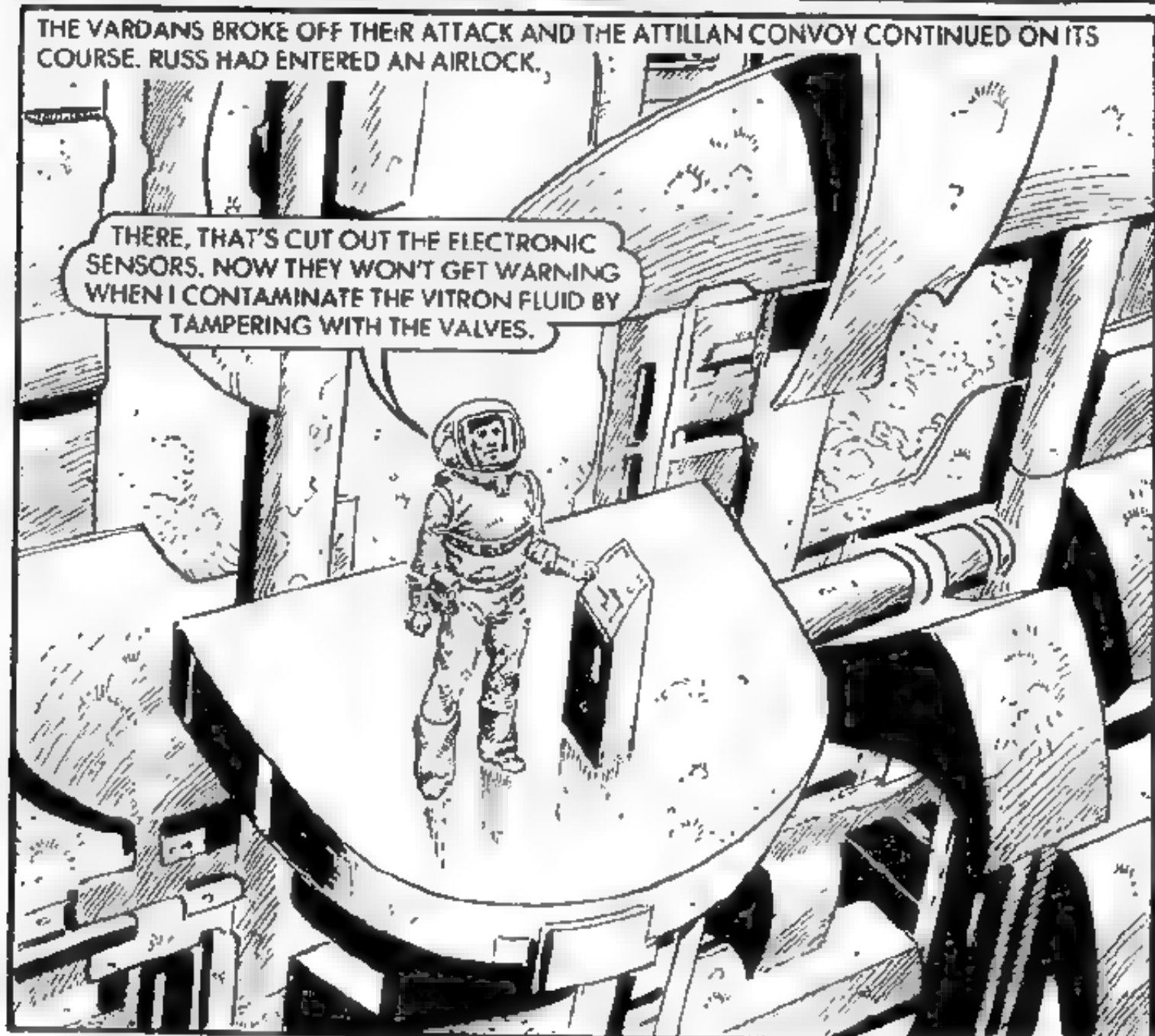
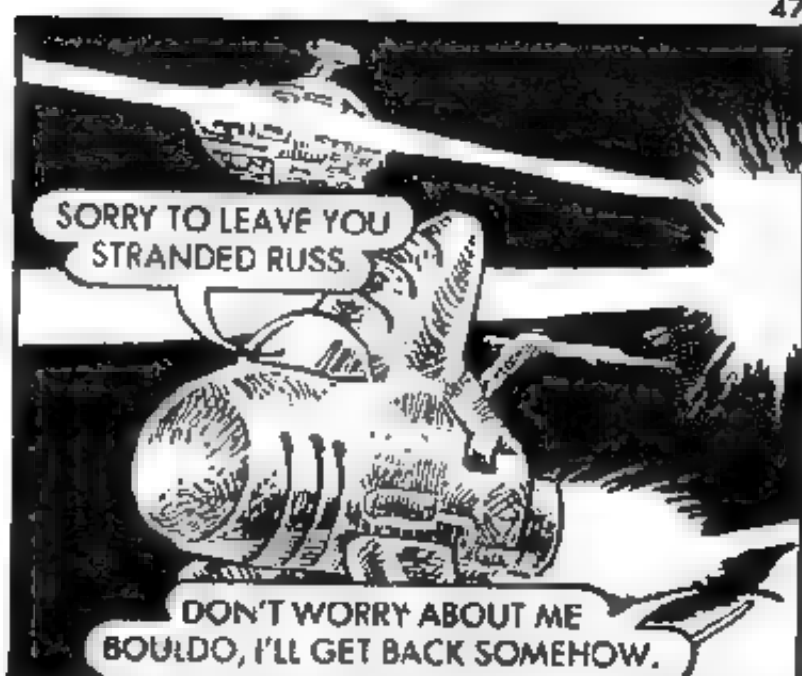
ALONGSIDE THE VITRON
TANKER, BOULDO.

THAT INSPECTION HATCH ON THE
BLIND SIDE FROM THE CONTROL
MODULE WILL SERVE OUR PURPOSE,
BOULDO. MOVE IN AS CLOSE AS YOU
CAN



I WANT TO SABOTAGE THIS CRAFT SO THAT WHEN IT HITS PROBLEMS THE ATTILLANS THINK THERE'S MORE THAN ONE PLANET AGAINST THEM.

HURRY! THIS IS A DANGEROUS AREA TO BE IN.

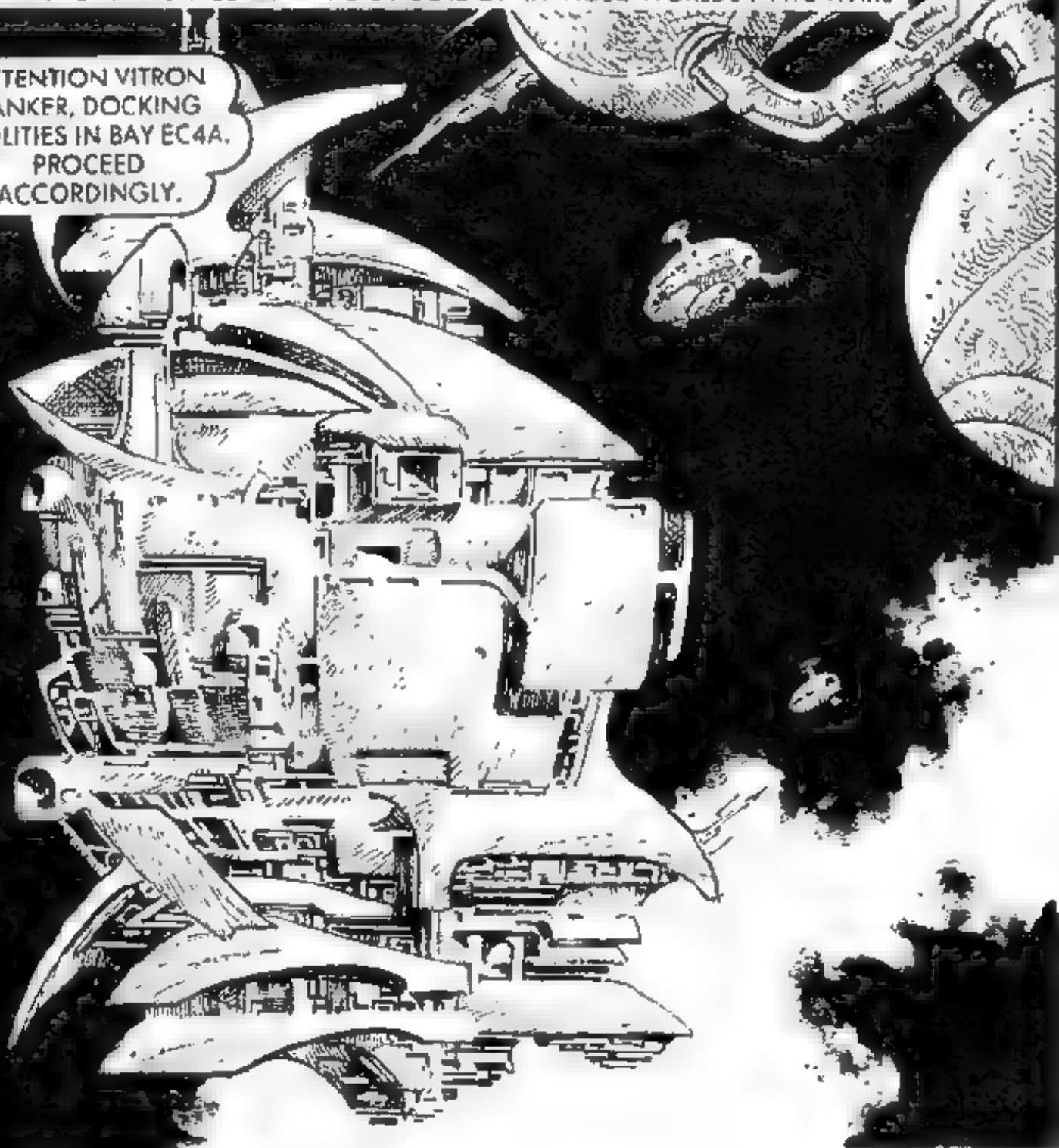


I CAN FEEL A DECREASE IN THRUST RATE. WE MUST BE NEARING THE END OF THE VOYAGE.

CHECK, NUMBER TWO BRAIN, BUT I'VE NOW INTRODUCED IMPURITIES INTO ALL THE MAIN STORAGE TANKS.

THE ATTILLAN BATTLE-STAR WAS THE CORE OF THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE THAT WAS HEADING TOWARDS TERRAN-SPACE WITH THE CINDERS OF RAVAGED WORLDS IN ITS WAKE

ATTENTION VITRON TANKER, DOCKING FACILITIES IN BAY EC4A. PROCEED ACCORDINGLY.

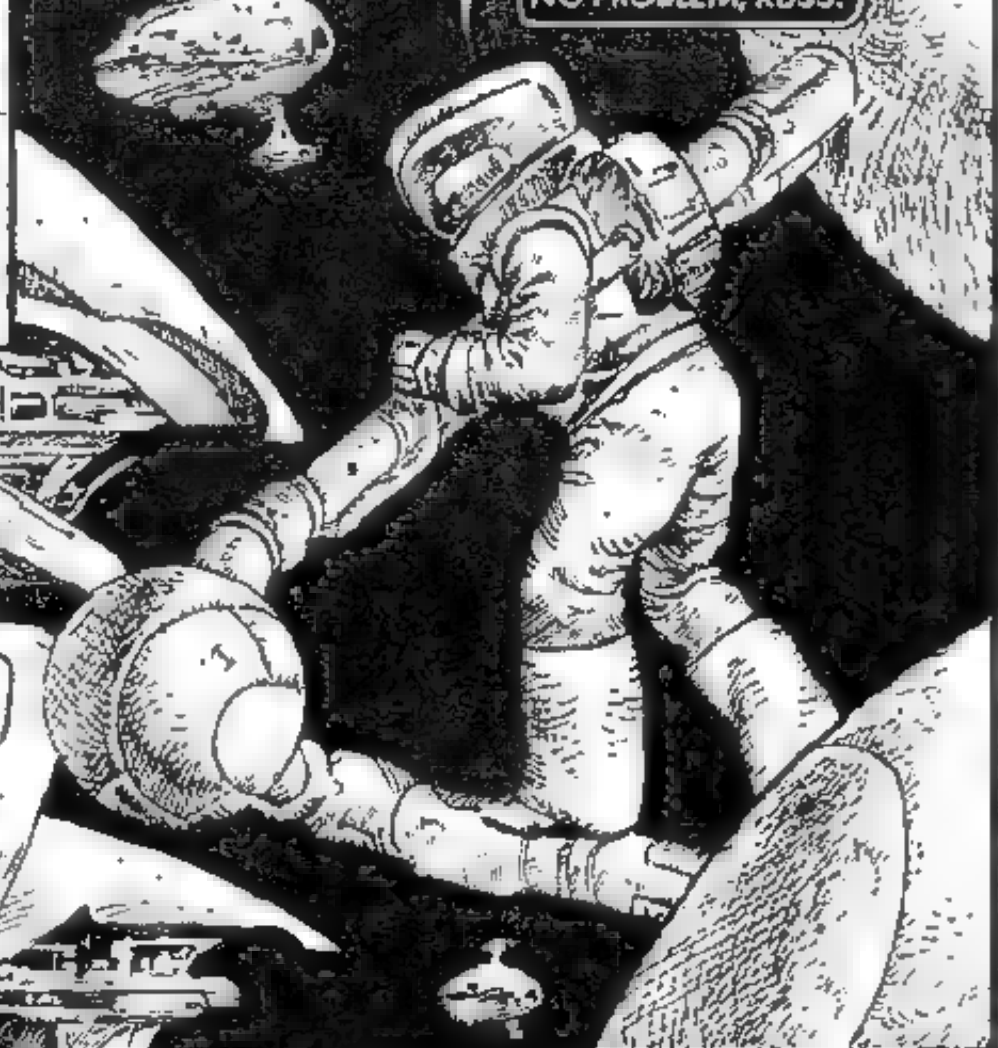


THEY'RE FEEDING THE
CONTAMINATED VITRON
FLUID DIRECTLY INTO THE
BATTLE-STAR'S STORAGE
TANKS. THEY'LL HAVE
PROBLEMS WHEN THEY
COME TO USE IT

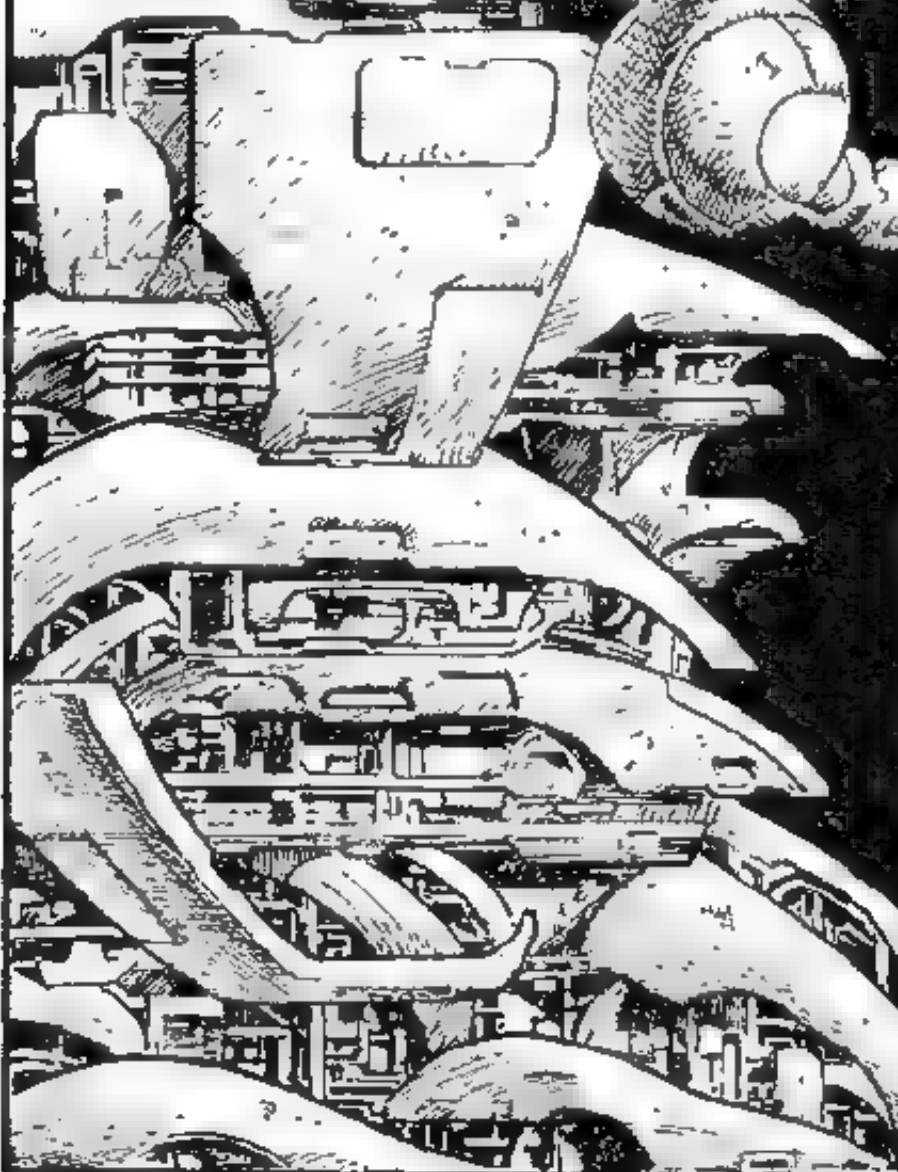


I WANT YOU TO STORE
EVERY DETAIL OF THE
LAY-OUT IN YOUR
UNUSED CELLS, NUMBER
TWO BRAIN.

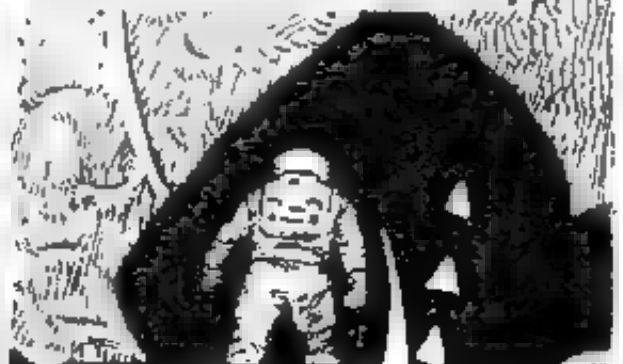
NO PROBLEM, RUSS.



THE FEVERISH ACTIVITY
AROUND THE DISCHARGING
VITRON-TANKER, MADE IT
EASY FOR RUSS TO STUDY THE
BATTLE STAR WITHOUT BEING
CHALLENGED



WHEN THE UNLOADING WAS
COMPLETED, RUSS WENT BACK
ABOARD THE VITRON-TANKER.



THESE EMPTY TANKS ARE BIG
ENOUGH TO HOLD A SMALL
ARMY. ARE YOU THINKING
WHAT I'M THINKING, NUMBER
TWO BRAIN?

THE TANKER WAS ROUTED TO RETURN TO THE VITRON REFINERY, THROUGH THE STAR SYSTEM WHICH INCLUDED THE PLANET VARDY.

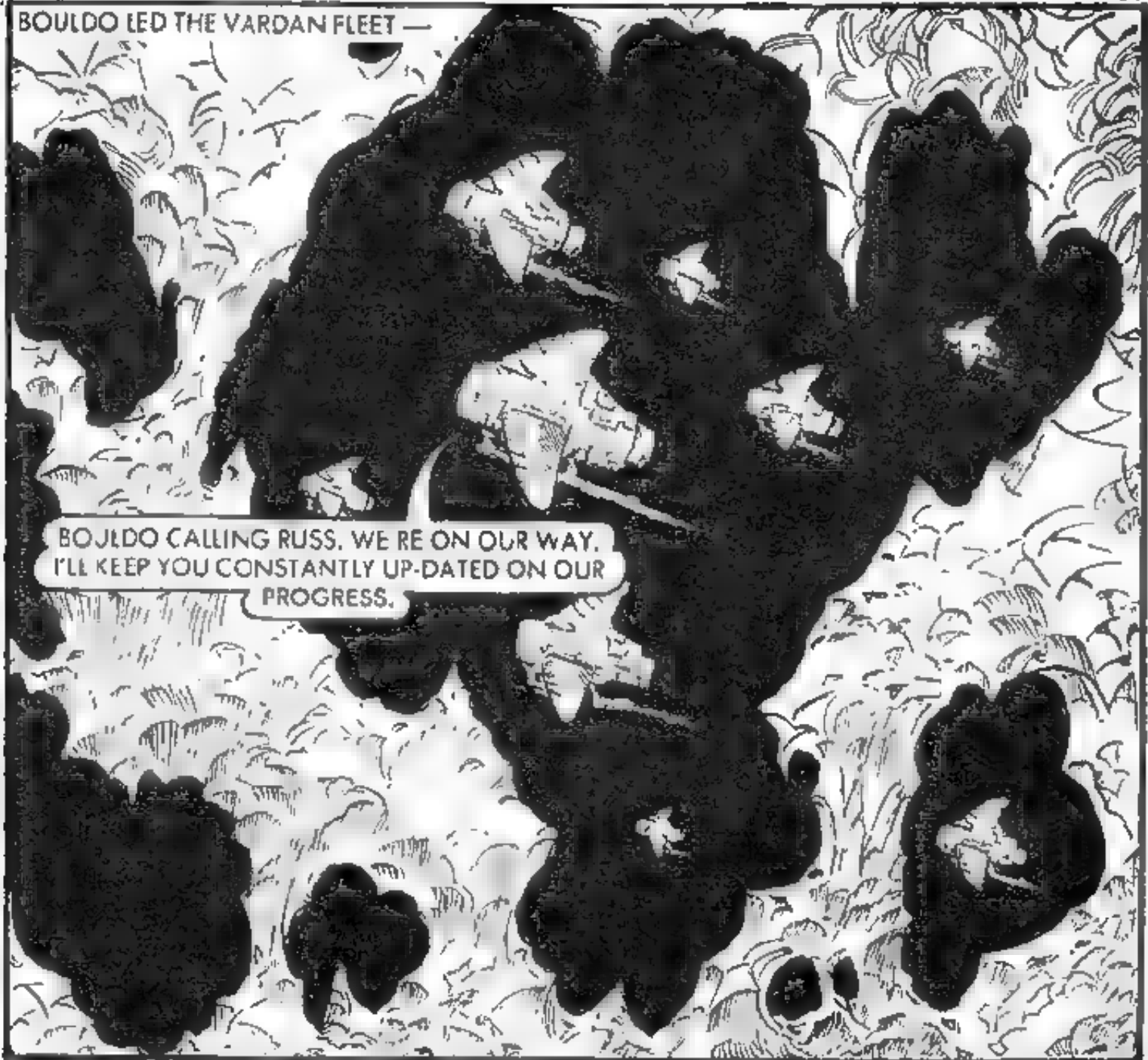
BY MY RECKONING, NUMBER TWO BRAIN
WE'RE APPROACHING VARDY. I'LL START
PUTTING MY CALL SIGN OUT ON THE
SECRET FREQUENCY.

THE SIGNAL WAS PICKED UP —

BOULDO RECEIVING.

NOW HERE'S MY PLAN ..

BOULDO LED THE VARDAN FLEET —



BOULDO CALLING RUSS. WE RE ON OUR WAY.
I'LL KEEP YOU CONSTANTLY UP-DATED ON OUR
PROGRESS.

THE VARDAN ATTACK WAS AS LETHAL AS IT WAS SW FT.

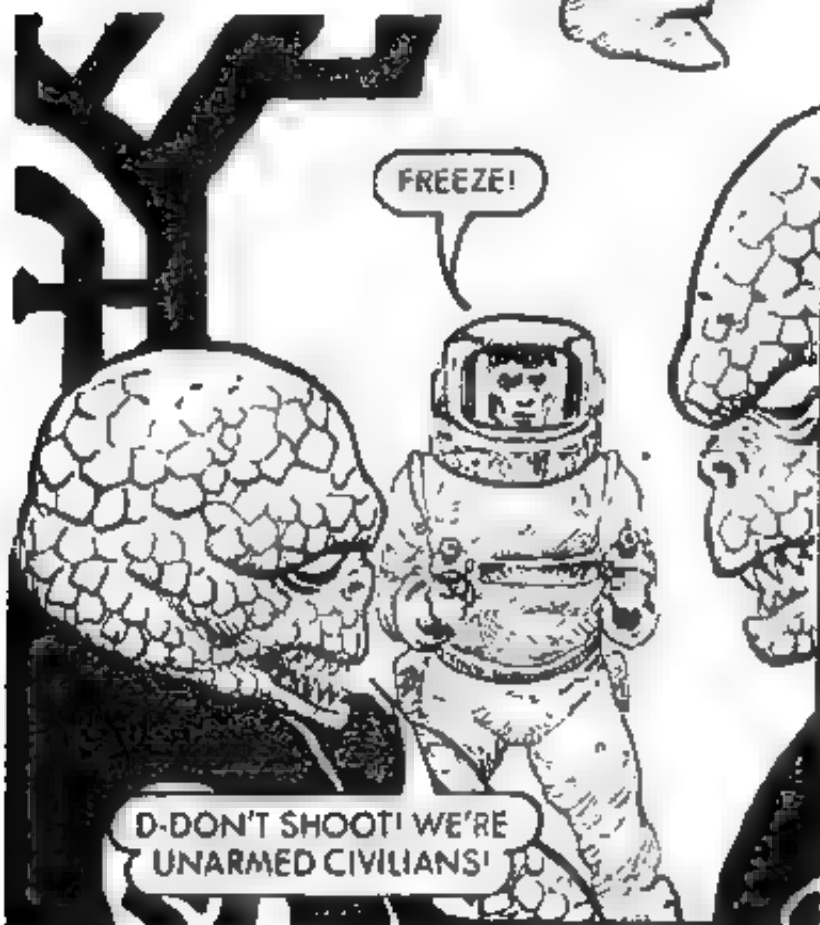


ELIMINATE THE ESCORT BUT DO
NOT DAMAGE THE TANKER!


RUSS RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT ALL THE ATTILLAN ESCORT FIGHTERS HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

HERE GOES WITH PHASE TWO! CAN YOU THINK OF ANY SNAGS NUMBER TWO BRAIN?

I SEE LOTS OF SNAGS, BUT I KNOW YOU WON'T LISTEN TO MY ADVICE.

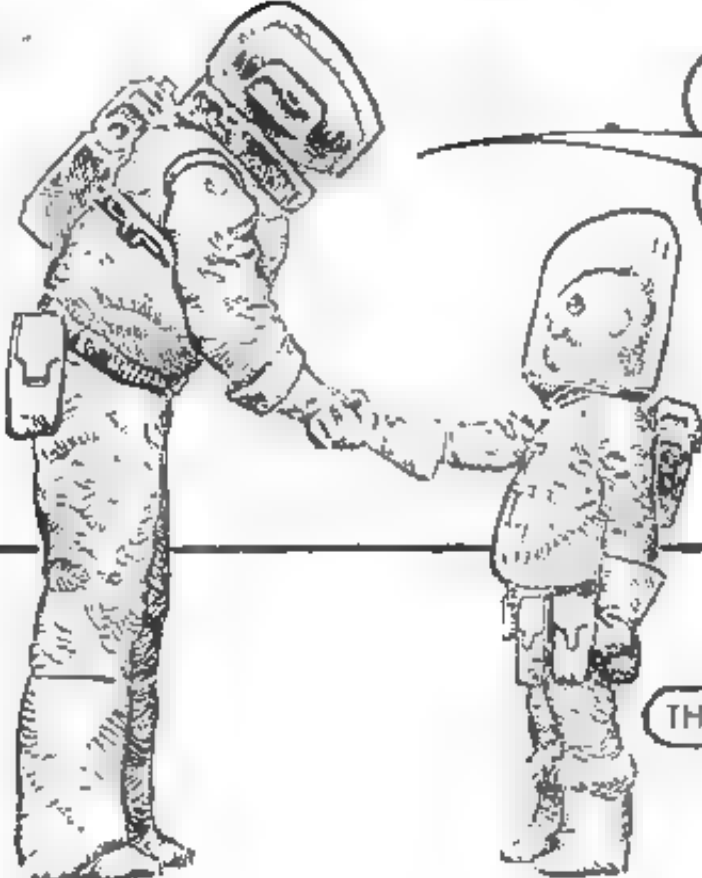


RUSS, WITH HELP FROM HIS NUMBER TWO BRAIN, PILOTED THE ATTILLAN CRAFT, TO BRING IT INTO A LOW ORBIT OF THE PLANET VARDY



WE ACTED FAST ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE ATTILLANS SENDING OUT A DISTRESS CALL, BUT WE STILL NEED TO GET ON WITH THE NEXT STAGE OF THE PLAN IMMEDIATELY.

BOULDO JOINED RUSS



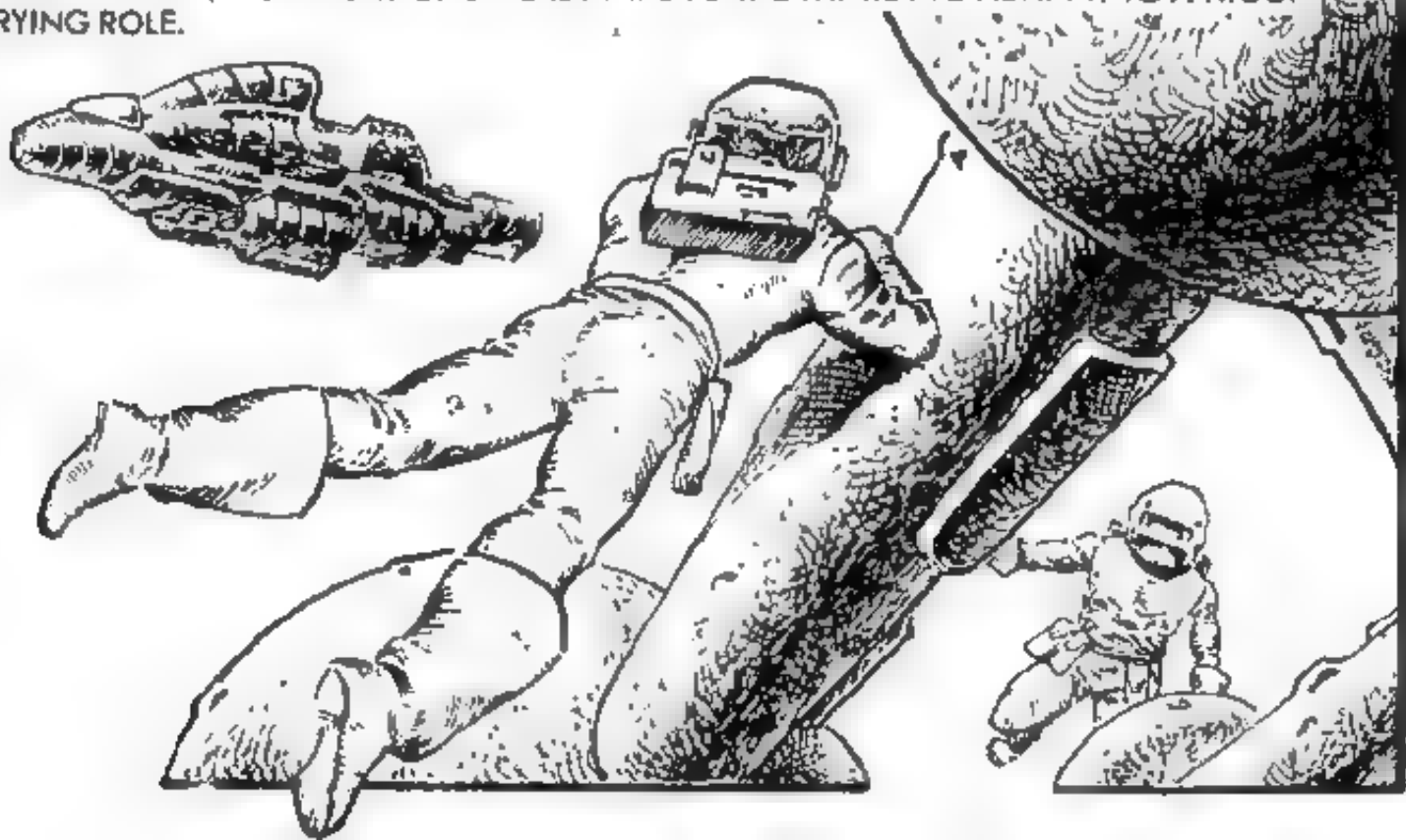
I WANT TO USE THIS TANKER FOR AN ATTACK ON THE BATTLE-STAR ITSELF. CAN YOU RAISE A RAIDING PARTY?

THERE'LL BE NO SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS

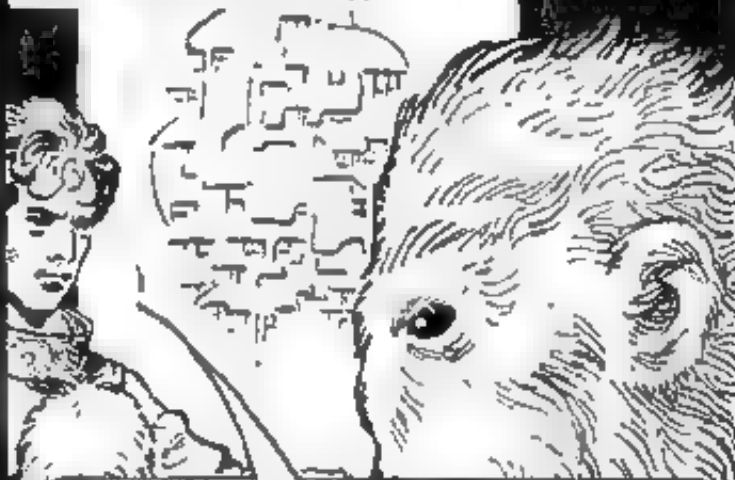
A VARDAN COMMANDO FORCE WAS RAPIDLY ASSEMBLED, EQUIPPED, AND FERRIED TO THE



AT THE SAME TIME, MODIFICATIONS WERE MADE TO THE TANKER TO ADAPT IT TO A TROOP CARRYING ROLE.



MEANWHILE, RUSS BRIEFED THE SECTION LEADERS.

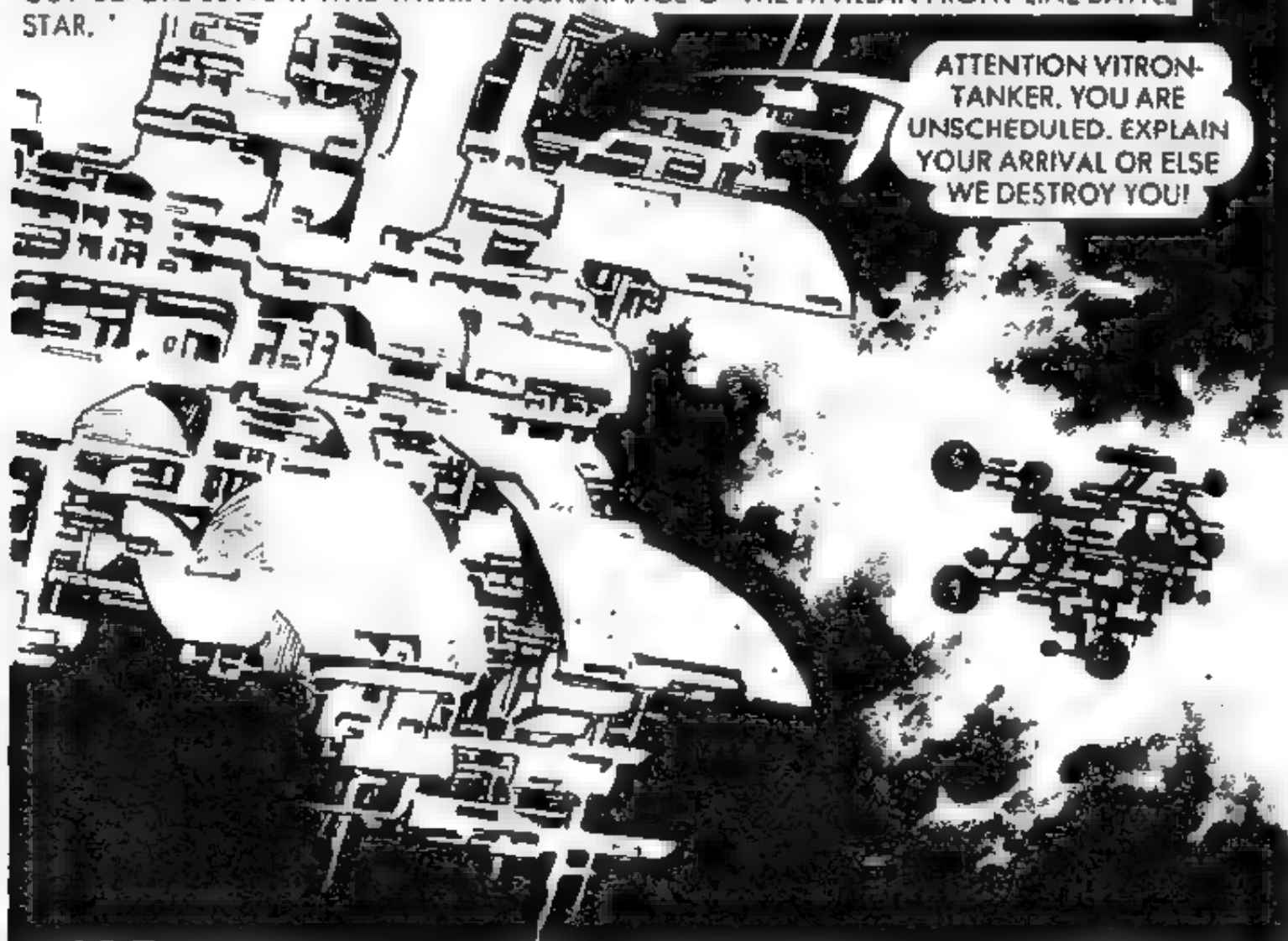


MY NUMBER TWO BRAIN HAS PRODUCED THIS PLAN WHICH SHOWS THE PRIME TARGET AREAS ON THE BATTLE-STAR. OUR AIM MUST BE TO STRIKE FAST AND STRIKE HARD, AND CARRY ON UNTIL THE ATILLANS CUT US DOWN.

ONCE WE'VE SOFTENED UP THE BATTLE-STAR, THE VARDAN FLEET WILL FOLLOW UP. IF OUR FLEET WINS THEY WILL PICK UP OUR SURVIVORS. IF THEY LOSE IT WILL BE THE END OF ALL FREEDOM IN THIS SECTOR OF THE GALAXY.



WHEN ALL THE PREPARATION WORK WAS COMPLETED, THE DESPERATE EXPEDITION SET OUT. BEFORE LONG IT WAS WITHIN VISUAL RANGE OF THE ATILLAN FRONT-LINE BATTLE-STAR.



ATTENTION VITRON-TANKER. YOU ARE UNSCHEDULED. EXPLAIN YOUR ARRIVAL OR ELSE WE DESTROY YOU!





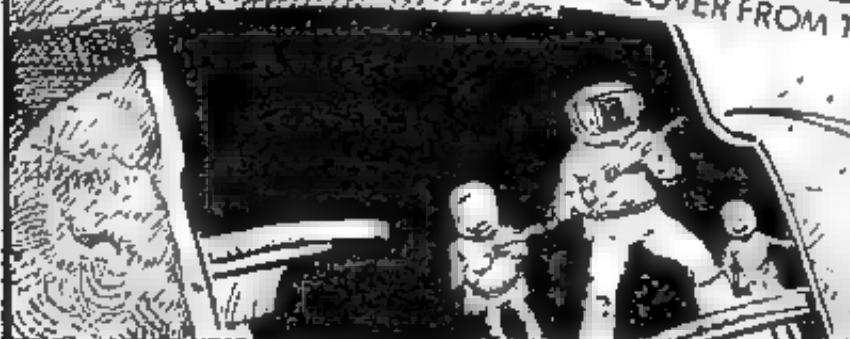
ATTACK! FOR VARDY
AND A FREE GALAXY!

A LETHAL BURST OF PHOTON FIRE HIT THE VANGUARD



THEY'RE READY AND
WAITING FOR US

OTHER UNITS FARED BETTER — UNDER COVER FROM THE ATTILLAN DEATH-FIRE



WE'VE LOST THE ELEMENT OF
SURPRISE. LET'S TRY TO ESTABLISH
A TOE-HOLD AND FIGHT IT OUT
FROM A CONSOLIDATED POSITION.

FIERCE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE —



THE ATTILIAN SIGNAL OPERATORS FLED THROUGH AN INNER AIR-LOCK, LEAVING THEIR CONTROL DOME EMPTY FOR RUSS AND THE VARDANS

RE-GROUP ROUND THE DOME. IT'S OUTSIDE THE TRACKING LIMITS OF THEIR BIG GUNS.

GOOD SHOOTING! WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD THIS POSITION WHILE WE TRY TO FORCE AN ENTRY INTO THE BATTLE-STAR'S INTERIOR.

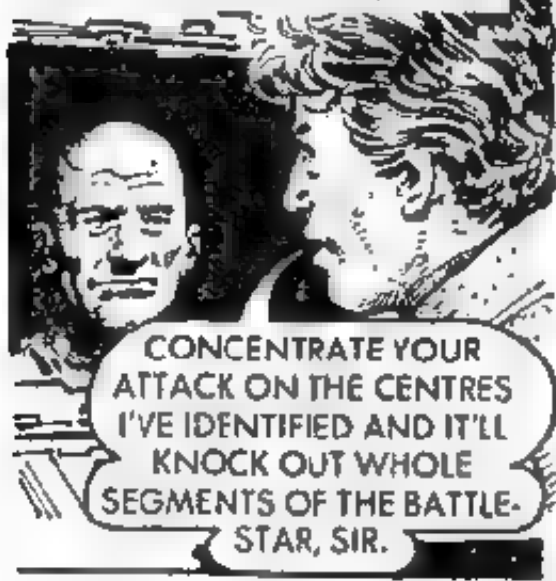
LOOK HERE, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE SHOWING UP ON THEIR VIEW-SCREENS!



STAR-FORCE HAD ARRIVED IN STRENGTH TO INVESTIGATE THE MYSTERIOUS WORM-HOLE



RUSS USED THE CAPTURED
ATTILLAN TRANSMIT EQUIPMENT
TO DIRECT THE FIRE POWER OF
THE STAR-FORCE BATTLE FLEET



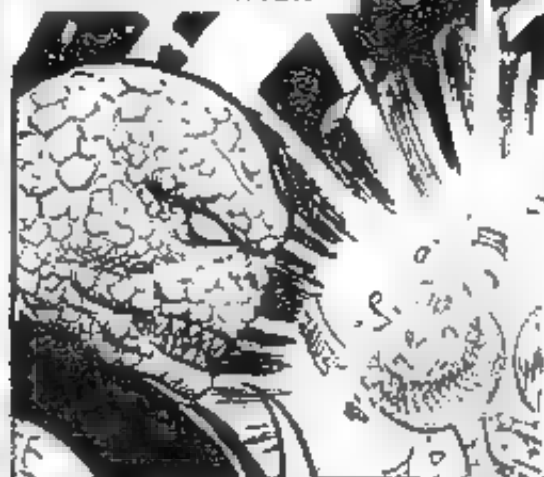
CONCENTRATE YOUR
ATTACK ON THE CENTRES
I'VE IDENTIFIED AND IT'LL
KNOCK OUT WHOLE
SEGMENTS OF THE BATTLE-
STAR, SIR.




THE STAR-FORCE FLEET CLOSED IN—



THE ATT LLANS TRIED TO
COUNTER ATTACK—



THERE'S SOMETHING
WRONG WITH THE SUPPLY
OF VITRON FLUID.



WITHOUT VITRON FUEL OUR
WEAPONS ARE USELESS. WE
ARE POWERLESS AGAINST
THIS FLEET

MESSAGE FROM MY VARDAN FLEET.
THEY ARE BETWEEN US AND THE
ATTILLAN BATTLE FLEET, AND THEIR
CONE OF ATTACK IS HOLDING
STEADY.

THIS IS THE RIGHT MOMENT TO PLANT OUR
EXPLOSIVE CHARGES INSIDE THE BATTLE-
STAR. THE ATTHLIANS ARE TOO HARD
PRESSED TO STOP US

SPLIT UP HERE AND PLANT THE CHARGES
ACROSS AS WIDE AN AREA AS POSSIBLE
THEY'RE ALL PRE SET TO GIVE US TIME TO
GET BACK TO THE TANKER BEFORE THEY GO
OFF GOOD LUCK



I HAVE CONTACT WITH OTHERS OF MY RACE WHO ARE PRISONERS ON THE BATTLE-STAR.

GIVE ME DIRECTIONS AND I'LL TRY TO GET THEM OUT BEFORE THE EXPLOSIVES BLOW.




MY BLASTER WILL DEAL WITH THE PRISON DOOR AS EFFECTIVELY AS IT DEALT WITH THE GUARD.

RUSS VAPED THE DOOR —



THE EVACUATION INTO THE EMPTY TANKER WAS COMPLETED WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE ATILLANS, WHO WERE CONCENTRATING THEIR TOTAL EFFORTS! — AGAINST THE ATTACKING STAR-FORCE



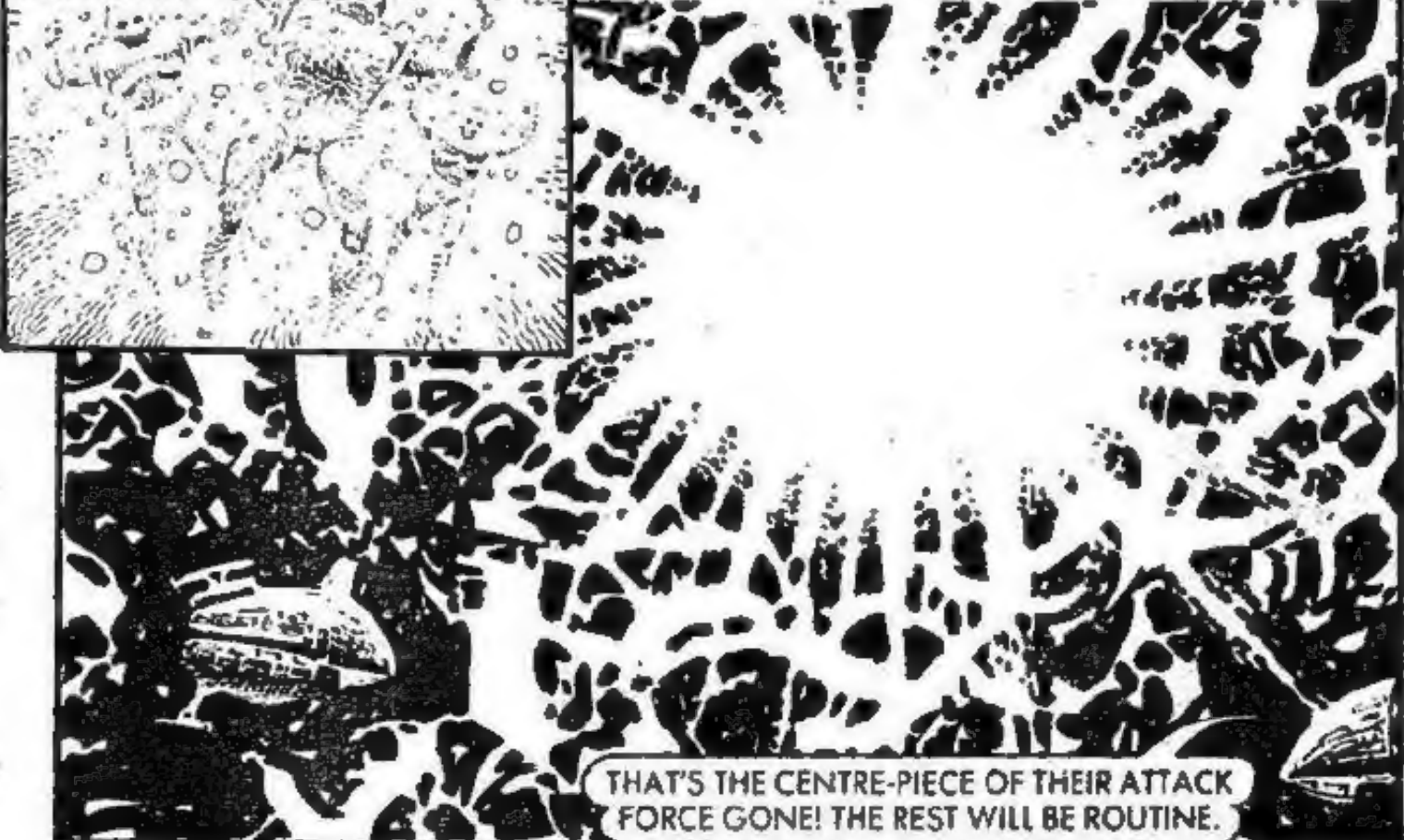


WE MADE IT WITHOUT A SCRATCH
ON THE PAINTWORK.

THERE ARE SEVERAL OF YOUR
TERRAN SECONDS STILL TO PASS
BEFORE OUR CHARGES GO OFF.


THE CAREFULLY PLANTED CHARGES
RIPPED THROUGH THE CENTRAL
JUNCTION BOX LINKAGE OF THE
BATTLE-STAR FLIGHT-CONTROL
NETWORK.

WITH THE FLIGHT-CONTROL NETWORK IN DISARRAY,
THE ATTILLAN BATTLE-STAR WAS UNABLE TO PREVENT
CONCERTED MISSILE SALVOS FROM STRIKING DEEP
INTO ITS VITALS, WITH INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES.



THAT'S THE CENTRE-PIECE OF THEIR ATTACK
FORCE GONE! THE REST WILL BE ROUTINE.

WITHOUT BATTLE-STAR, THE REMNANTS OF THE ATTILLAN FORCE DISPERSED INTO THE VASTNESS OF INTERSTELLAR SPACE, NEVER TO BE A FIGHTING FORCE AGAIN.



I MUST REJOIN STAR-FORCE, BUT FIRST, LET ME RETURN MY NUMBER TWO BRAIN TO THE SAFE KEEPING OF ITS OWN PEOPLE.

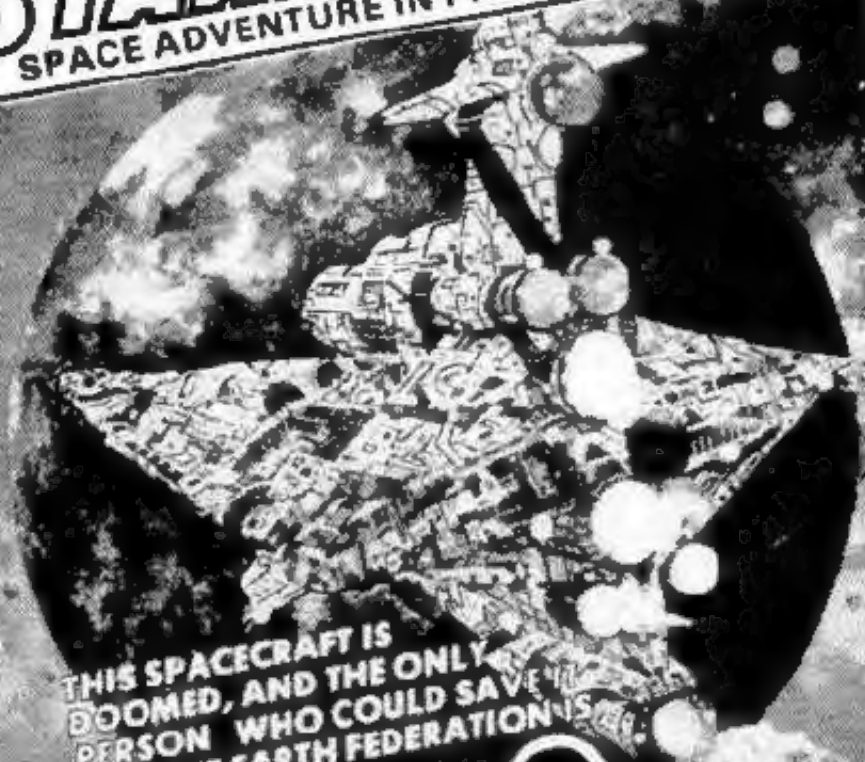
THE YARDANS ORGANISED THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE WORLDS. FREED FROM THE ATTILLAN OVERLORDS, WHILE STAR-FORCE RE-INFORCED THE PERIMETER DEFENCES OF TERRAN FEDERATION CONTROLLED SPACE. RUSS'S CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH A DYING ALIEN HAD SAVED THE LIVES OF MANY PEACE-LOVING RACES.

DON'T FORGET TO READ THIS MONTH'S

OTHER

STARBLAZER

SPACE ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 86



THIS SPACECRAFT IS
DOOMED, AND THE ONLY
PERSON WHO COULD SAVE
AND THE EARTH FEDERATION IS

THE Cosmic Outlaw

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSAGENT'S

STARBLAZER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY CANIS MAJOR

SIRIUS, the Dog Star, is in the constellation of Canis Major, and is the brightest star in the sky. This star of the Southern Hemisphere lies 8.6 light years away.

